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THE JERUSALEM POST CHANNEL

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19807

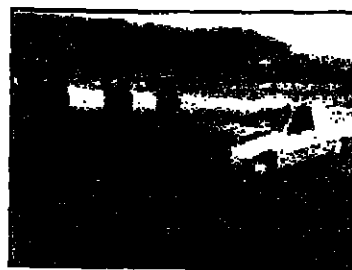
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1997 • KISLEV 23 • 5758 • 22 SHAABAN 1418

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Long Island's landmark mall



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PM promises new jobs on eve of Ofakim visit

By DAVID HARRIS and Ilin

As workers in Ofakim continued their strike in protest against a lack of government aid, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday invited the rest of the cabinet to join him in a visit to the economically embattled town today.

Meanwhile, Labor activists in Ofakim told Israel Radio yesterday that residents were stockpiling tomatoes in preparation for Netanyahu's visit.

Netanyahu invited all the ministers to see at first hand the hardships

faced by the town with the highest unemployment rate in the country—estimated at 20 percent. But Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai refused to join the visit, telling the cabinet that the key to relieving unemployment would be in executing rescue packages rather than job bus trips.

Foreign Minister David Levy echoed Yishai's concern, saying only a thorough debate that would set down genuine policy, including the means to carry it out and giving priority to unemployment pockets, has a chance of changing the situa-

tion. "Otherwise," Levy said, "the prime minister will have to travel from place to place every week."

Levy warned the government against being "cut off" from the reality of the problem. "Only a co-ordination can move you," he accused his colleagues, "and we're standing before a terrible social conflagration."

Many people can't make their mortgage payments, or pay municipal rates or rent, Levy said, adding, "This government is destroying its own values and moral foundation

regarding these citizens."

Yishai introduced a proposal for an NIS 128 million jobs creation package for the 17 hardest hit unemployment pockets. The backbone of the 15,000-job scheme is a series of professional training courses, including:

- 3,618 people would have to finish their basic education.
- 2,612 jobless will receive on-site training at a number of factories.
- 3,000 places in job-finding workshops.

These and several other recom-

mendations are to be implemented immediately with the results being seen in six months, with additional schemes being adopted over the coming two years.

The introduction of Yishai's proposal prompted a row between him and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

"Yishai called Neeman an eel that slithers out of things in his decision-making," said Yishai spokesman Zvi Rosen. "It was a serious argument."

The Yishai proposals were compiled in consultation with mayors

and local teams established specifically to find solutions to the unemployment problem.

Yishai is calling for additional state money next year to fund the project, but Neeman is trying to prevent the transfer of the cash. The Treasury is presently trying to receive Knesset approval for an NIS 2.3 billion budget cut in 1998 and is attempting to deter all ministerial requests for added funds.

Following the incident, Neeman issued a statement saying he is working for the best interests of the economy and to find solutions to

existing problems.

Netanyahu met last night with Neeman and Yishai to make peace after their cabinet row.

In Ofakim, the prime minister intends joining a visit by a committee of directors-general of economy-related ministries, which has been charged with finding an immediate solution to the development town's problems and longer-term measures to halt the rising tide of unemployment throughout the country.

See OFAKIM, Page 2

Maccabiah indictments due today

Head of organizing c'tee, opening ceremony boss quit

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN, BATSHEVA TSUR, and Ilin

State prosecutors are scheduled to file indictments this morning against those allegedly responsible for the Maccabiah bridge tragedy which last summer claimed the lives of four Australian athletes and injured more than 60.

The Justice Ministry has refused to comment on reports that five people sent warning letters last month by the State Attorney's Office would be charged in a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court with negligence and manslaughter for the July 14 disaster which occurred at the opening of the 15th Maccabiah Games.

The five being charged are Dr. Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge, contractors Baruch Karagula and Yehoshua Ben-Ezra; Yoram Eyal, the head of the organizing committee; and Adam Mishorin, director of the Irgunit company which provided materials for the bridge.

Prosecutors acted after coming under pressure from the Australians to speed up the indictment process.

Eyal resigned hours before the plans for indictments were announced. Itamar Herman, who was responsible for the games' opening ceremony, also announced he was stepping down.

The resignations came as World Maccabi representatives gathered at Kfar Hamaccabiah to discuss reports of the impending indictments.

In his resignation letter, Eyal said he is confident a trial will show that "we acted responsibly, and took all necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of all the sportsmen and women participating, and that the responsibility for the collapse of the bridge at the opening ceremony does not lie with any of the members of the 15th Maccabiah organizing committee."

He said he considers himself "entirely blameless," but that "in keeping with my view of the necessity of conformity with a proper code of conduct in the fulfillment of public office, I wish to inform you of my decision to resign from the Maccabiah and the International Maccabiah Committee, and also to inform you that I do not con-

sider myself a candidate for office at the 16th Maccabiah."

In his resignation letter, Herman said that "this step is in no way an admission on my part of any responsibility, either personally or generally," for the bridge collapse.

"The decision is an expression of the feeling of public duty that has been with me from the moment that this tragic event occurred until this very day."

He said those responsible for the tragedy are "those actually responsible in practice for the planning and construction of the bridge, although by the same token, I cannot ignore the fact that the event occurred at the 15th Maccabiah, in my term of office as chairman of the opening ceremony organizing committee."

Interviewed on Israel Radio, Eyal said he had not stepped down before because he had been asked to continue to run the Maccabiah after the accident, "even by the Australians." He said that World Maccabi officials had asked him and others not to resign before they held a formal session on the accident.

"The time of resignation is unimportant, because the Maccabiah is over. I completed my duties. What's more important is that I am not a candidate for the post for the next Maccabiah. I think I have to do this without any connection to the trial. I'm sure we will be cleared."

Eyal said he would have resigned even without the threat of an indictment.

"There is no connection between the trial and the moral responsibility we have for the Maccabiah that I was in charge of. I knew a moment after the bridge collapsed that I would resign from running the next Maccabiah and any involvement in it."

Eyal also was confident he will be acquitted, if indicted.

"We ordered a bridge in an orderly fashion from companies, and an engineer planned the bridge. Whoever reads the full Dotan Committee report, will understand that an engineer planned a bad bridge, a contractor built it before he got the plans from the engineer," he said.

He said he is not angry at the Australians for pressuring Israeli officials to file indictments, and that he knows that "there was a desire for a public official to be put on trial as well."

Eyal also said he had spoken with tennis player Sacha Elterman's father and that her condition has improved. Elterman, 15, is in a Sydney hospital recovering from a severe respiratory infection she suffered as a result of the accident.

Chaos at World Likud forum

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The World Likud convention was prematurely adjourned just hours after its opening yesterday, when a group of French delegates violently attacked members of the media and fellow delegates, and forcefully prevented the election of a new chairman.

The disruption of the conference followed Communications Minister Limor Livnat's decision to challenge Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's candidate for the job, former Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman.

Netanyahu last night urged Livnat and Lieberman to reach an agreement that would enable the convention to continue. The two sides were expected to meet throughout the night to work out a

Likud's version of a 'world war,' Page 3

solution.

Following the turmoil and outgoing World Likud chairman Ronni Milo's subsequent decision to adjourn, there was an hour's delay in last night's opening ceremony, as Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman, and Milo cloistered themselves in a hotel room to decide how to proceed.

When it was finally held, it remained unclear whether the ceremony was closing or opening the convention. Meanwhile, Livnat decided not to attend, "because of the violent events in which democratic elections were prevented by force."

The fiasco at the convention is the culmination of the deepening rift between Netanyahu and his party's veteran leadership.

Milo announced he was closing the convention due to its "severe demonstrations of violence and hubgery" and that he was resign-

Milo's parting shot

The Likud yesterday managed the seemingly impossible. It turned the convention of its esoteric sister entity, the World Likud, into a major media event, although very few Israelis had any previous inkling of its existence.

The achievement becomes all the more amazing when one considers that the convention never ended up happening. Squabbles preempted all business, and incumbent World Likud chairman Ronni Milo resigned from the job he was about to lose anyway, and canceled the entire production.

Another fantastically surreal element was contributed by the festive opening ceremony in Jerusalem of what had only a few hours earlier deteriorated into farcical fisticuffs at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The clue to what this was all about was provided by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who decided at the last minute to run against Avigdor Lieberman, ex-director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, for



A World Likud delegate attacks a photographer during yesterday's convention at Metzudat Ze'ev in Tel Aviv. (Dan Ossendy/ver/Israel Sun)

ing as chairman. The decision to close the convention, he said, came after hearing that more violence was being planned for today and that it was "organized violence."

"This is out of the question," said Milo, "I cannot allow it, therefore I am forced to cancel the convention and resign. Until order is restored and the convention can take place without violence, I refuse to go on."

"A certain group refused to accept the court ruling regarding the delegates' list, and that brought on the violence," Milo said, adding, "I cannot go on taking part in such disgraceful spectacles."

The riot broke out when

Lieberman's supporters refused to accept a Tel Aviv District Court ruling rejecting the petition by a number of them to disqualify the list approved by the convention's election committee. The supporters wanted another list, giving Lieberman the advantage, to be accepted. The French delegation demanded 16 more delegates.

When the beginning of the elections was announced, a group of French and Israeli delegates who support Lieberman blocked the corridors and forcefully prevented delegates from reaching the third floor, where the voting was held. They attacked journalists who

tried to film or record them in action.

Lieberman afterward said he denounced any violence and was prepared for any compromise, then charged Milo and his people with being behind the violent acts, which he said were all part of damaging the Likud and the prime minister.

Channel 1 reported last night that despite Lieberman's denials, his right-hand man and confidant, Michael Goralovsky, was giving telephone instructions to delegates to continue the violent acts.

According to Channel 1, Goralovsky was translated by

someone standing next to him as saying: "Are they voting? No, don't let anyone vote. Give the French people help; you didn't come here to sit around. Don't let them do all the work here. Help them, don't let them rest."

Lieberman, who announced earlier he was boycotting the elections, later changed his mind and said he would run if an agreement were reached by this morning.

The Likud Party issued a statement yesterday apologizing to the journalists who were beaten up. "This is an extremely grave occurrence and we strongly denounce it," the statement said.

PM to blitz Congress during visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy accused cabinet colleagues yesterday of thinking they can procrastinate endlessly about handing over territory to the Palestinian Authority.

Levy expressed fear that Israel may be subjected to pressures which will curtail the government's ability to maneuver while damaging the peace process and souring relations with the US.

Levy addressed a debate that centered on whether the precise

dimensions of the IDF's next pull-back in the West Bank should be proposed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu or suggested by US President Bill Clinton.

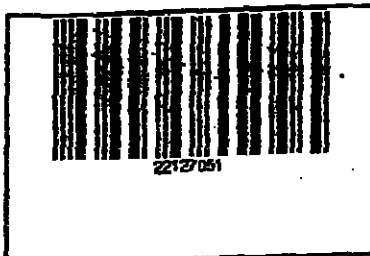
An Israeli source said Clinton and Netanyahu would likely meet in late January or early February, which would give Netanyahu a chance to lobby in Congress.

"We want it to take place as close as possible to the end of the Congressional recess," the source said, "so that the prime minister can meet with as many senators and congressmen as possible

while he is in the US," the source said.

After hearing Netanyahu's report of his talks in Paris last Thursday with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and his informing of the impending arrival of US peace coordinator Dennis Ross early next month, Levy demanded to know whether Netanyahu really believes that a withdrawal from 6 to 8 percent of the territory will suffice to get the peace process moving again.

See CONGRESS, Page 2



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See MILO, Page 2

NEWS

in brief

Police believe Afuta killed Elimelech

Police investigating the murder-suicide last month of celebrity Anat Elimelech and a former boyfriend, David Afuta, believe that Elimelech's gun went off accidentally as they were arguing, hitting Afuta in the shoulder, without killing him. They believe that afterwards Afuta fired at Elimelech at close range and then shot himself in the chest. Police were still checking suspicions that somebody may have moved a gun found at the scene to point in Elimelech's direction. Previously it was suspected that Elimelech had shot and killed Afuta before committing suicide, mainly because his body had two bullet wounds and hers had one. *Tim*

Health Ministry spokesman found dead

Dubi Ben-Ami, the 36-year-old spokesman of the Health Ministry, was found dead of apparently natural causes yesterday afternoon, in his car near the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem. Ben-Ami, the former spokesman of the Prisons Service, was married and had two young children. He complained of dizziness and weakness yesterday morning, but continued working. When he failed to respond to his beeper and cellular phone, colleagues contacted Magen David Adom, which helped them search for his car. Ben-Ami, who had recently overcome his habit of heavy smoking, had been dead for several hours when found. *Judy Siegel*

Peace Now: Settlements hurt poorer towns

Peace Now yesterday charged the government is pouring money into the settlements while neglecting development towns. According to information compiled by the movement, the Israel Lands Administration last year granted settlements 141 dunams of land to encourage industry. In addition the movement claimed that it granted 3918 plots for housing construction in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The average cost of a plot was \$13,000, which covered only six percent of the marketing costs. *Margot Dudkevitch*

CONGRESS

Continued from Page 1

Levy asked whether Netanyahu sought a cabinet decision on the extent of the next pullback before his meeting with Clinton, or whether he prefers postponing the decision until after his return. "I sense that this matter does not

appear urgent as far as some of the ministers are concerned," Levy was quoted as saying.

"Look, let's put it off for another week or two," he continued. "If we do not lead the way, our interests will be harmed in vital areas, including settlements and security. Everyone knows this truth, but nevertheless everyone prefers to play make-believe."

Right-wing extremists arrested

By ELLI WOHLGELANTER and Tim

Right-wing activists Avigdor Eskin and Damian Pakovitch were arrested yesterday and ordered held for six days on suspicion of incitement.

Police confiscated many documents including a passport and computer found at their homes, and imposed a news blackout on other details of the investigation. Eskin's lawyer, Naftali Wurzbarger was denied permission to meet his client for the duration of the investigation. "What a blood libel," Eskin murmured as he was led into court for his remand, his arms and legs shackled.

Eskin was also indicted, along with Emanuel Shibrint, for incitement to violence, and praising the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, for possessing 130 stickers saying "and he shall redeem us."

The stickers emphasized the Hebrew word for redemption, *yigal*, the first name of Rabin's assassin.

The arrests were the latest of a series of measures by police and General Security Service officials against right-wingers suspected of planning violence to resist another pullback in the West Bank.

Yehuda Etzion, head of the Chai organization, set up a protest vigil yesterday morning outside the home of OC Home Front Command, Maj-Gen Gabi Ofir, against an order issued last week barring Etzion from entering the Old City of Jerusalem.



Damian Pakovitch (Brian Heidler)

Chai Vekaiyam strives to win the right of Jews to pray freely on the Temple Mount. Etzion is one of about 10 people whose movement has been restricted from areas including the Old City of Jerusalem, Nablus, Jericho, other Palestinian autonomous areas.

Last week Hebron activist Noam Federman, already barred from entering PA-ruled parts of Hebron, was barred from traveling to Jericho and Nablus.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Tzvi Katzover, who organized yesterday's strike against the proposed pullback, called the crackdown on right-wingers unfair, saying the government was singling out an "entire public faithful to Eretz Yisrael just because of some people at the margins."

Katzover also accused security authorities of trying "to disrupt the democratic struggle that we're involved in."



Avigdor Eskin (Brian Heidler)

Shmuel Sackett, co-leader of the Zo Artzeu (This is Our Land) movement, alleged that the government was "afraid of people who are about to organize massive demonstrations," which could embarrass the authorities.

"This doesn't scare us; it didn't in the past, it won't now. We will continue doing what has to be done," Sackett added.

Settlers to PM: Don't bow to US pressure

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hundreds of settlers demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday protesting against the proposed second redeployment in the territories.

Some 1,500 settlers converged on the capital, traveling in buses and private vehicles from Kiryat Arba, Hebron, Ma'aleh Levona, Shilo, Eli, Beit Hagai, and elsewhere. Schools and kindergartens were closed by a one-day protest strike and many parents were accompanied by their children.

Holding banners calling for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu not to bow to US pressure, the settlers charged that government policy would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and demanded the government halt peace negotiations and plans for withdrawal until the Palestinians honor their side of the agreement. Rabbi Menahem Felix, one of the organizers, said the Palestinians had not changed the Palestinian Covenant or destroyed the terrorist infrastructure.

Kiryat Arba resident Elyakim Ha'etzi charged that Netanyahu is intent on destroying Israel's sovereignty, which can only result in the establishment of a



Settlers from Judea and Samaria demonstrate yesterday opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. (Brian Heidler)

Palestinian state. Committee member Tzvi Katzover said the demonstration was part of activities planned in order to alert the public to the consequences of the

proposed withdrawal. Among those addressing the crowds was MK Ze'ev Begin, who cynically quoted Netanyahu's statement that "only this govern-

ment will bring redeployment." Begin asked: "Is it conceivable that this government, which handed over 87% of Hebron, will also uproot settlements?"

Toward noon the crowd marched to the US Consulate on the capital's Rehov Agron, where they gathered to protest against US pressure and intervention.

Riots erupt in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

For the first time in weeks, Hebron was the scene of rioting yesterday as scores of Palestinians threw stones at IDF troops and Border Police posted in the area dividing the city's Jewish quarter and the section under Palestinian control.

Soldiers dispersed the rioters with rubber bullets and tear gas, the IDF Spokesman said. A Palestinian youth was reportedly injured by a rubber bullet, but no statement was issued regarding the type of injury he suffered.

According to Fatah sources, the rioters were protesting Israel's policy regarding redeployment and its demands that the Palestinian Authority crack down on terrorism before any withdrawal is carried out. The sources

warned that riots would continue.

During the morning, Israeli District Coordinating Office officials met with their Palestinian counterparts in an effort to end the confrontation. Palestinian Police reportedly did not prevent the rioters from stoning the troops.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon said stones were also thrown at the Avraham Avinu Quarter and warned that settlers would enter the cashah area and restore order.

Meanwhile, a man was injured when stones were thrown at his vehicle as he was driving along the Givat Ze'ev-Re'ut road. The IDF Spokesman said the driver was lightly injured and transferred to hospital for treatment.

Settlers claim that eight residents of Judea and Samaria have been injured by stones in recent days.

Yitzhak Levy: Oust coalition chairman

MK Meir Sheerit suggested abandonment of small settlements

By LIAT COLLINS and JON BERMANUEL

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy and National Religious Party whip Hanan Porat yesterday called for MK Meir Sheerit's removal as coalition chairman.

They were incensed at reports that Sheerit had told Palestinians that some small Jewish settlements will have to be evacuated at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

"You can't leave islands of Jewish settlements," Sheerit reportedly said at a meeting of Palestinians and Israelis, including 10 coalition MKs, in Athens.

"Anyone who wants to stay after the permanent settlement must know that he will have to accept Palestinian laws."

The four-day meeting ended yesterday with a joint commitment to press their respective leadership to advance the peace process, to avoid unilateral actions, to establish a joint monitoring committee and encourage freedom of movement.

The 10-point declaration was seen as positive by most members of both sides, since it went beyond what was accomplished in a previous meeting in July, when the two sides failed to achieve a joint statement.

However, none of the 10 articles in the statement addressed the issue of violence, which Palestinians said is linked to settlement building.

Zvi Weinberg of Yisrael Ba'aliya, dissociated himself from the declaration for this reason.

Sheerit told the Palestinians they could gain more from negotiating with the Israeli Right than with the Left, citing the precedent set by Menachem Begin at Camp David.

"The Right," he said, "could have evacuated a settlement like Netzarim in Gaza," something the Labor Party could not do.

"It was our fault we did not achieve that with Rabin," said Sufian Abu Zaydeh, Palestinian head of the People-to-People Committee.

In response to his readiness to exchange territory in the Negev to

be annexed to Gaza for areas near Jerusalem to be annexed to Israel, Abu-Zaydeh said. "The idea was mooted in the Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan. The important thing is reciprocity."

On the Israeli side there was hope that the 10 members of the delegation representing coalition parties could grow and coalesce into a counterweight to "Force 17," which opposes further concessions in the peace process from inside the government, said Emanuel Zissmann of the Third Way.

The meeting was hosted by the Greek government and organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East.

Sheerit, who is also Likud whip, repeated his stand that there is no alternative to a Palestinian state. Asked whether these opinions are shared by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Sheerit replied: "I am head of the Likud faction, but I have my own private opinions."

Porat said the NRP would boycott today's planned coalition meeting in protest.

PM, senior Chinese official to discuss peace process

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's presence in Jerusalem is expected to provide government leaders with a rare insight into Syrian and Lebanese attitudes to peace-making due to his having arrived here after high-level talks in Damascus and Beirut.

This is the first country by country trip by a senior Chinese cabinet member in the Middle East, signaling China's interest in playing a more active and influential role in regional affairs.

Levy considers China "the power of the future," which is why he has attached great importance to Qian's visit.

Netanyahu and Levy will reiterate to Qian Israel's opposition to the sale of missiles and raw materials to Iran for the production of biological and chemical weapons, Levy's political adviser, Freddy Eitan, said.

They will urge Qian to support sanctions against Iraq and that China not break the international consensus that supports the UN weapons inspectors seeking out non-conventional weapons in Iraq.

MILO

Continued from Page 1

But the appeal came too late. The chagrined French contingent raged. Lieberman was accused of sponsoring violence. Livnat displayed much indignation, and Milo was likely the only one left laughing.

This was Milo's last chance at a center-stage role in a Likud event. Perhaps it amounted to his own vindictive slap of Netanyahu's face. Milo's tenure as World Likud head was about to end. He called it quits dramatically and embarrassed the party by pulling down the curtain on the yet-unmounted production, a short while before the producers were to hold their opening-night gala.

If anyone intends to revive the convention, they will have to come and plead with him. That includes Netanyahu.

If Milo had a hard time con-

cealing his glee last night, then Netanyahu must have been the most distressed. The world Likud is not a significant forum, but it shares the same name as the local party and that makes for at least a symbolic connection. Moreover, the fact that the same cast of characters continued to pursue the same feud does not augur well for Netanyahu and the Likud.

Netanyahu had backed Lieberman before Livnat's challenge, but perhaps he should have prudently kept himself out of the melee. Not having done so, he exposed his leadership to apparent challenge.

The Likud has shown itself unable to convene any forum in any arena without an eruption of that festering vendetta by the party princes (led by Livnat) against the upstart invaders (led by Lieberman). No one can see how the strife can be ended, although without an armistice the Likud could ignominiously self-destruct.

OFAKIM

Continued from Page 1

Unemployment reached 8.1 percent in the third quarter, compared to 6.6% during the equivalent period last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Netanyahu told the cabinet that the committee will next month produce a series of proposals to generate hundreds of extra jobs in development towns. Among proposals being considered are expanding existing factories and relocating factories there from the center of the country, said a cabinet statement. Those relocating would receive land and buildings on special terms.

Yesterday, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami visited Ofakim.

Meanwhile, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir agreed yesterday to set up an independent sewerage system in Ofakim. Such a move would allow for easier construction of new factories in the town, said Sharon. During the cabinet meeting Sharon also suggested the government reexamine its approach to the Capital-Investment Aid Law, which offers grants to those investing in development areas.

Under this government, the rate has been lowered from 34% to 24%, with a proposal to cut this further to 20% as part of the 1998 budget.

The Joint Commission on the American Promenade in Israel

Deeply mourns the loss of our beloved friend

GENERAL UZI NARKISS

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.

Shimon Peres MK, former Prime Minister
Ehud Olmert MK, Mayor of Jerusalem
Raffi Eliot MK
Uzi Landau MK
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Orrin Hatch
Governor Fob James Jr. & Mrs. Bobbie James
Charles Brooks, National Pac
Daniel D. Cantor, Florida
Harold Berry, Michigan
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Founding Director of the Israel Arts and Science Academy
A leader and a friend.

We extend heartfelt condolences to the family

Harvey Wolfe President
Steven Ain Executive Vice President
Max Blankstein Chairman, IRC
Amnon Shinar Director General

The unveiling of the tombstone of the late

BELLA SEBBA

will take place on Sunday, December 28 at 3 p.m. at the Tel Mond Cemetery.

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of Miami Beach has passed away.

His funeral will take place today, Monday, December 22, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. from the Beit Halesvayot Funeral Parlor opposite Herzog Hospital in Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The coffin is scheduled to arrive on El Al Flight No. 008 at 12:15 p.m.

The Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People, Beit Sabour Rapprochement Dialogue Center, Jerusalem

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Reception to follow

Buses will leave from Liberty Bell Park, parking lot, Emek Refaim St., Jerusalem at 3:20pm. To reserve place: a bus call: Shraga 02-6711351 or Hillel 02-6732936, for information in Beit Sabour: 02-6472018.

Background:

- In 1967 when Israel captured and occupied the West Bank including the Old City of Jerusalem, it guaranteed Freedom of Access to the Holy Places.
- This guarantee was basically upheld until 1990, even during the hottest days of the Intifada.
- Since 1991 Israel has been denying Palestinian Moslems and Christians (from the West Bank and Gaza) access to Jerusalem and to their holiest sites.

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Likud's version of a 'world' war

By HERS KEINON

Bringing the battle between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the "Likud princes" to the world Likud forum yesterday seemed the equivalent of having a mock UN assembly in a local high school deal with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"The question I have to ask myself when choosing who to support for world chairman," said Doron Jacobs from England, "is who is going to be better for us, who is going to create a bigger boom for Betar in England."

While what was foremost on the mind of Jacobs and a number of like-minded delegates at the convention was the state of their youth groups, Avigdor Lieberman, the former director-general of the prime minister's office, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo were talking of lofty ideals such as democracy, proper parliamentary procedures, and enlightenment.

It was like eating steak with cotton candy.

And it was into this strange affair that Netanyahu, fresh from talks in Paris on the future of the state, was oddly and uncomfortably thrust.

"I generally think that the left has what to learn from us," said Netanyahu, speaking at what was originally billed as the gala opening of the convention.

"But tonight I think we have something to learn from them. They generally wage their internal battles quietly. This is a good rule."

A second good rule that could be learned from the left, he said, is "they generally come to an understanding ... what happened here today did not add honor to anyone."

Acting on this rule, Netanyahu called on Lieberman and Livnat to



A World Likud delegate emphatically makes a point in front of Avigdor Lieberman during yesterday's conference at Metzudat Ze'ev in Tel Aviv.

sit together and work out their differences to enable the convention to get off the ground. And, indeed, after 10 p.m., Livnat came to the Dan Pearl Hotel in Jerusalem for a meeting with Netanyahu and Lieberman.

commentary, while similar differences inside Labor will get "five minutes" and then be forgotten. This was a theme picked up eagerly by convention delegates. The media, said Australian delegate Selwin Freeman, blew yesterday's events at Metzudat Ze'ev "completely out of proportion."

The jostling captured by television cameras was not among delegates, he said, but between delegates and the media who he said "shoved the cameras into peoples' faces."

What kept the election from taking place, according to Freeman, was simply a procedural matter that "happens all over."

Knesset to pass reserve bill today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The new reserve duty bill, expected to be passed in the Knesset today, will present the IDF with difficulties in times of war, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak said yesterday.

Over four years in the making, the bill introduced by Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen is aimed at easing the burden on those who do reserve duty and offering compensation to those who serve more than the required number of days.

"As long as there is no change in the security situation and we don't need more reserve forces, we can live with this bill. The moment there is a change for the worse and we need more reserve units or for them to serve longer, then we will have to change the legislation," Shahak said.

According to the bill, reservists serving in combat units will be released from general duties at 41.

They will still be called up for training until mustering out at 47. The bill also limits the number of annual reserve days to 25 general duty days and five days of training.

Soldiers can also be called up for a maximum of six one-day duties. These are linked so

reservists will be able to train more if their general duties are cut. General duties are usually spent patrolling the borders or in the territories.

Reservists can now be called for a maximum of 50 days and released only at 54.

A special fund of NIS 30 million has been set aside to pay compensation for those serving more than the limit. These include all reservists, not just those in combat units. But the payment will only come at the end of a year of duty when it is clear that a reservist has passed the limit.

"There will be many hundreds of people who will do a lot more beyond what this new law requires them to do," Shahak said. "But that is the only way that we can keep someone as a properly trained company or battalion commander."

In a press conference at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the new bill is part of a series of efforts to ease the burden of military service.

"I know the compensation is not a lot of money. It is not significant and is mainly to a message that their service is valued," Mordechai said.

According to Cohen, 30 percent of the pool of reservists are doing 80 percent of reserve duty.

WZO comptroller slams emissaries' selection procedure

By ARIEH DEAN COHEN

Candidates who failed personal evaluation tests and may not have mastered the language of the country they were being sent to were dispatched as World Zionist Organization emissaries anyway, according to one finding of the WZO Comptroller's Report.

The 280-page report, issued over the weekend and to be presented to the 33rd Zionist Congress opening in Jerusalem tomorrow, examined procedures followed by a number of bodies affiliated with the WZO.

The report notes that the 1985 report of the Landau Committee examining WZO emissary procedures had determined that "if it proves impossible to find candidates of high standard in a sufficient number to staff all the vacant positions, it

would be preferable not to reduce the requisite standard and not to staff all the vacant positions. The quality of the individual emissary is to be preferred over the quantity of emissaries."

However, the comptroller found that requirements regarding candidates' education were undefined; no well organized records were kept of workshops for choosing candidates; candidates who failed personal evaluation tests were still allowed to serve as emissaries; and no proficiency level was set for the language of the destination country.

Responding to the report, WZO Chairman Avraham Burg said that emissary candidates who fail language tests would be disqualified.

However, Burg said the personal evaluation tests were only "one component" in the candidate's over-

all evaluation. He added that, while academic education is considered a necessary for candidates, "top-notch candidates who do not have a degree shall not be turned down summarily if their experience and general level is such as to enable them to make a significant contribution."

Among some of the comptroller's many other findings were late payments by various WZO divisions to suppliers; an aliya emissary for student matters being sent to London despite the fact that the director of the Emissaries Training Institute doubted his suitability; and two Keren Hayesod workers employed at the airport to welcome important visitors who filed as many as 80 hours of overtime a month, but were actually not there for more than a few hours a day.

World Labor may ban 'yored' term

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The World Labor Zionist Movement convention kicked off yesterday, culminating with a festive opening ceremony.

The convention is to discuss the World Labor Movement's position on a series of controversial political issues - including the conversion bill, the separation of state and religion, and the Jewish Agency's activity among Israeli Arabs.

Also on the agenda is a proposal to stop referring to Israelis living abroad by the term *yordim*.

President Ezer Weizman and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak were the main speakers at last night's opening ceremony, which was attended by 400 delegates, including 150 from Europe,

Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, observers from former Soviet Union states, and some 80 members of the Habonim-Dror youth movement worldwide.

The opening ceremony was followed by a memorial service for Yitzhak Rabin, with the participation of Barak and members of the Rabin family.

The convention yesterday approved the candidacy of Zionist Executive Chairman Avraham Burg for a further term; Yehiel Leket for chairman of the Jewish National Fund, instead of Moshe Rivlin; Haim Chesler for chairman of the Absorption Department, instead of Uri Gordon; and Arye Azulay as executive without portfolio.

Mordechai unsure IDF needs haredim

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai hinted yesterday that he is not entirely in favor of drafting haredim.

Mordechai has been coy over his position on the matter for months and yesterday repeatedly refused to answer questions on drafting haredi yeshiva students.

He said he preferred to wait until after the High Court of Justice rules on the issue.

"I don't want to relate to the details of the matter since it is before the High Court. When it rules, I will have a lot to say about it," Mordechai said in what has become his mantra.

"In my opinion, their direct contribution is not great," Mordechai said. "This is not just numbers. Those who think

that society and national problems and readiness and willingness to fight are the results of some math are misleading themselves."

"I'm not saying that we can't better use the work force, but I advise that we examine the entire mosaic of society and its ramifications and not in mathematical numbers where someone things they must take a ruler and think that with that they have an answer," Mordechai said.

The High Court is currently hearing a petition by Meretz MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Haim Oron to put a ceiling on the number of yeshiva students who are given draft deferments.

In his reply to the court last week, Mordechai said the current situation is not harmful to national security and suggested the court reject the petition.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAL SELA

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's separate meetings last week in Paris and London with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat have not raised any optimism in the Palestinian media.

At the beginning of the week all Palestinian dailies led with pictures of Palestinian construction workers in the Ofra settlement, "which is built on the lands of Ein Yabrud," an *al-Quds* caption read.

"Despite optimistic Israeli announcements, the prospects for any progress ... are dim," read an *al-Quds* editorial.

According to all signed accords, from Oslo to Hebron, the Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories should be completed at the latest by mid-1998, it said. "If the Israeli party is interested in security and stability, as they say, and do not use this issue as a curtain behind which to hide in order to continue with

occupation, ... they should understand, that peace is the only guarantee for security." The alternative is the return of the tragic circumstances which prevailed before the peace process was set in motion.

The newspaper praised the Palestinians, "who in principle approved the security plan, which was long negotiated with the USA."

Furthermore, "the Palestinians have not used the sensitivity of the internal Palestinian arena as an excuse to postpone it," wrote *al-Quds*, alluding to a claim often raised by Israeli negotiators, that Israel has to consider its internal political difficulties.

The plans for separate meetings next month by both leaders with US President Bill Clinton "does not give a reason for optimism. Past experience has proven that without pressures Israel can not make decisions which can move the peace process," it wrote.

In their pessimistic attitude Palestinians are searching for mir-

acles. A cartoon in *al-Quds* described Albright asking Clinton for a miracle to put in her peace negotiation travel bag. Another cartoon showed Netanyahu presenting Albright with an olive branch. His shadow, however, looked like a Roman soldier, wearing a helmet and holding a sword.

It has been "the week of percentage," wrote in *al-Ayyam* Ilyas Zananiri, calling the proposed Israeli withdrawal too low and unemployment, too high. The problem, however, is not a matter of percentage, but of concept, according to Zananiri. It is not the volume of withdrawal, but Netanyahu's "Greater Israel" ideology, and his often repeated declarations that the entire Eretz Isral belongs to the Jews.

Palestinian settlements


The settlers can empty the peace process of its real content,

said the results of a research paper by Kamal al-Astal of al-Azhar University, published in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*. The settlements were built according to strategic defense lines, said al-Astal.

He went into details of Zionist Movement involvement in settlement construction and gave two tables with figures displaying land confiscation and numbers of trees uprooted since the Madrid Conference.

He says that until March 1995 - 61,321 dunams of Palestinian land were confiscated and 16,159 trees were uprooted. Al-Astal suggested building Palestinian neighborhoods around Jewish settlements to "choke them."

In order to treat the Israelis the way they treat the Palestinians, al-Astal suggested also to pave roads which the Israelis shall not be allowed to use. "Removing the settlements should be a permanent strategic goal, because ... they express the continued policy of hostility," the article read.


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Sunday, December 28, 1997, in Hebron

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 11:00 a.m. Walking tours in Hebrew and English, led by Professional Guides, leaving from the Gutnick Center
 12:00 noon Magician's show at the Gutnick Center (NIS 5)
 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. Clowns, funny shaped balloons, treats
 2:00 p.m. Movie on Hebron, shown every half hour at Beit Hadassah
 2:00 p.m. Short guided tour for families, leaving from the Gutnick Center
 2:00 p.m. Lecture in English by Rabbanit Miriam Levinger at Avraham Avinu Synagogue: "The Challenge of Living in Hebron"
 1:50 and 3:15 p.m. Visit to the home of the artist Baruch Nachshon, and talk in Hebrew: "To Be an Artist Living in Hebron", leaving from the Gutnick Center
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 Buses will leave Hebron shortly afterwards.

Ruth and Nadia Matar, on behalf of all our Women in Green
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Knesset budget debate postponed MKs: No way we'll OK cuts in child benefit

The Knesset will not begin its marathon 1998 state budget debate as scheduled tonight, because the Finance Committee has so far failed to approve the budget.

A series of disagreements between coalition members of the committee and with senior Treasury officials meant MKs failed to vote on the budget yesterday.

"I want to see this budget passed, but the Treasury must understand there is no way the committee will approve the cut to child benefits," said Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who chairs the coalition group in the committee.

There is cross-the-board opposition to the Treasury's proposal to cut child benefit payments on the first two children in families where the main wage-earner receives more than NIS 7,200 each month, according to committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism). However, the Treasury and MKs were last night considering a proposal to begin the cuts only where the main family salary is above NIS 10,000, according to Kleiner.

The other main bone of contention is the Treasury's health care plans contained in the arrangements bill. State budget director David Milgrom is attempting to force the health funds into implementing cost-saving measures, against the views of Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and MKs in both the coalition and opposition.

"There are currently no alternative proposals to that on the table," said Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef.

The NIS 207 billion budget includes a proposed cut of NIS 2.3b. Of that, coalition MKs are objecting to cuts amounting to NIS 1.5b. - the equivalent to a one percent increase in VAT, which is being touted by some economists as the only viable solution. The committee must approve the budget package before the Knesset debate can commence.

Neeman was scheduled to meet coalition MKs at 9 a.m. this morning in a bid to reach compromise.

Once the budget is before the Knesset, Labor has promised to raise 13,000 objections to the proposals, as it attempts to thwart the government's need to pass the budget no later than December 31.

BUDGET '98

By DAVID HARRIS

Health funds cut referrals to hospital clinics

By JUDY SIEGEL

Budget-cutting measures by health funds has caused a drop in patients referred to outpatient clinics in the major hospitals, sources told the *Jerusalem Post*.

"Now the health funds are sending mostly the very ill, and they reach us at a later stage of their illness," the head of one major unit in a Jerusalem hospital said yesterday.

"The funds are trying to save money by treating patients in their own outpatient clinics that used to come to us."

The Maccabi health fund confirmed it was trying to treat patients in community clinics. "We had to do it because of all the strikes in the hospitals," said spokeswoman Sarit Greenberg. "We want to reduce our dependence on the hospitals as much as possible, but patients who

need the interdisciplinary care and advanced equipment of the hospitals are still getting referrals to hospital outpatient clinics."

The Clalit health fund denied it made any policy changes, saying it was continuing to send patients to hospital outpatient clinics; in many cases to hospitals owned by Clalit.

Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the Health Ministry's medical services branch, said that while he

understood why the funds wanted to treat patients in the community, "the team approach in hospitals and the advanced equipment are often vital in diagnosing and treating serious conditions."

But Berlovich said he had received only a small number of complaints about the referral system hurting anyone's health.

He added that health funds have hired hospital specialists as advisers

at afternoon clinics, "and if this saves them money without reducing the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment, we do not object."

Meanwhile, the Israel Alzheimer's Association will protest outside the Knesset against the exclusion of tacrine, an Alzheimer's drug, from the expanded basket of health services.

Abandoned baby gets foster home

By JUDY SIEGEL

A foster home has finally been found for a baby abandoned by his parents and raised for 10 months by nurses at Bnai Zion Hospital in Haifa. The foster parents, who live in the Haifa suburbs and have five children of their own, said they would take care of the ill child as an "obligation to God."

The baby is the son of a divorced woman immigrant from the CIS who has two other preschool children. He was born with a cleft palate and undeveloped lungs that required him to be connected to a respirator most of the time. Dr. David Bader, head of the Bnai Zion neonatal department where he was cared for with much love, said that despite his medical problems, he is a bright child.



In memoriam

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki yesterday lights a memorial candle, held by World Hadassah President Marlene Post (center) and Hadassah Israel President Hinda Gross, at a ceremony held at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mt. Scopus in memory of women killed by their boyfriends or spouses. The cutouts represent the murdered women, who can no longer speak for themselves. (Avi Hayoun)

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Taxi drivers tie up traffic

By HAIM SHAPIRO and DAVID RUDGE

Protesting Transport Ministry plans to grant a taxi permit to anyone who can pay for it, taxi drivers yesterday tied up traffic in the three major cities, and on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway.

Some drivers demonstrated opposite the Knesset, and others blocked traffic by forming a cavalcade at the exit from Jerusalem, and again on the highway to Tel Aviv, near Latrun. Much of Jaffa road in Jerusalem and the area around the Prime Minister's office was also jammed.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agreed to meet the drivers tomorrow.

The protests were against a government plan to grant an unlimited number of permits at a cost of NIS 195,000, beginning January 1. Drivers who have worked for a taxi permit holder for at least four years will be able to buy their own permit for NIS 135,000. Generally, the move has been welcomed by non-owner drivers.

There are some 12,000 taxis on the road, and the Transport Ministry estimates there are about

6,000 non-owner drivers with four years' experience.

Taxi owner Haim Posek, who manages the Carmel and Ahuzat taxi line in Haifa, maintains that the more liberalized licensing procedure would create anarchy in the business.

"Anybody with money would be able to own a taxi and then they would hire drivers to do the work for them. The country would be flooded with taxis and there wouldn't be enough work to go around," Posek said.

Pinni, one of Posek's drivers, said that only the government would benefit by reaping millions of dollars in license fees, but that the livelihoods of many taxi owners and drivers could be ruined.

He said that he would be unable to afford a license under the new rules.

"I'm 43, divorced with children and I've been working as a hired driver for 22 years. I haven't been able to save money to buy a license. If this decision goes through, I never will," Pinni said.

Posek said he expected taxi drivers to intensify protests unless the government reconsidered the measure.



A line of taxis ties up traffic yesterday near the Latrun exit of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. (Isaac Harari)

IDF to start teaching the 'laws of war'

By ARYEH O'SULLIVAN

The majority of IDF officers have never had any formal instruction about rules of war, and most of their awareness comes from movies and television, a top IDF jurist said yesterday.

In response to this finding, the IDF has declared 1998 as the year for international law, and has launched an ambitious project to increase instruction on these issues.

"We see an interesting combination in the IDF," said Lt.-Col. Daniel Reischer, assistant military advocate general for international law. "When you ask officers what is permitted and what is forbidden in a war many of the answers are correct. But when you ask them from where they know it they'll start stuttering 'I heard about it, I saw it in a movie.'"

"There has not been any formal education of this in the IDF and that was natural for an army which was mainly fighting. They didn't have time for lectures," Reischer said.

IDF Advocate General Brig. Gen. Uri Shoham said it was found that awareness about international law was not satisfactory. "Today it's more a thing of intuition and less on rules. What we need is more rules. There are no violations or things which we can point at and say grave things were done here. But we have to know how to do things correctly."

Two courses on the law of war are planned at the new IDF law school, Shoham said.

Ranks to participate will run from company com-

mander to divisional commander.

Reischer said that commanders were faced with international law dilemmas while on duty in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He cited as an example the legal aspects of returning fire at Hizbullah gunmen who shoot from inside a Lebanese village.

"Don't you think the commander of an artillery battery who is to pull the trigger should know whether he is permitted to fire on civilians? I think he has to know," Reischer said.

Despite not knowing the precise rules, "The level of morality among IDF officers in Lebanon is very high and very often they throw out answers which are legally correct," he added.

Regarding the British Mandate-era practice of administrative detentions, Shoham said that currently some 400 Palestinians were being held without trial, a drop compared to the 4,000 figure from the intifada.

In a press conference yesterday, Shoham said that the number of court martials went up 15 percent from last year, with the largest increase in trials against those absent without leave.

There was also an 11% increase in cases involving drug use in the army in the past year, while drug convictions have doubled in the past three years, Shoham said.

"In the past four to five years we have certainly seen an increase in drug convictions. In 1994 there were 200 and this past year there have been 542," Shoham said.

Weizman kicks off reelection campaign

By BATSHEVA TSUR

With balloting scheduled for February 16, President Ezer Weizman today kicked off his reelection campaign with plans to meet a delegation of Likud MKs headed by coalition chairman, Meir Shetreet.

"This is the first of a series of meetings over the next two weeks in which the parties will come to Beit Hanassi to pledge their votes. Weizman already has more than 25 Likud MKs behind him," a source close to the president said.

"Labor, the NRP, and other parties can also be expected soon at Beit Hanassi."

The source also maintained that "Weizman's reelection is a foregone conclusion."

Shetreet, however, said that "there is still plenty of time to decide on a candidate," and that ultimately their recommendation would depend on who Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu endorses.

"The president invited us over," Shetreet said, "and we are going to hear him. But no one is making decisions so soon. We have until February."

"I personally am quite satisfied with the president but there will only be a vote in the party after Netanyahu announces who he believes the best candidate is. That won't be before January. So what is the point of speculating?"

Ben-Gurion University Professor Yirmiyahu Branover plans to announce his own candidacy today, under the slogan: "A President for a Jewish State." Branover maintains that Israel has begun losing its Jewish identity.

"The prime minister is politically committed to the observant public and he knows full well that he owes the major part of his electoral success to this public," Branover said in a statement yesterday.

"Without relating to the virtues and faults of President Weizman, Israel today needs a different president, one who represents a broader, deeper and better rooted level of its identity," he added.

Branover, 66, a world renowned physicist, was born in Riga to an assimilated family. He later grew closer to Judaism and the Habad movement through the Jewish underground in the former Soviet Union.

He made aliya in 1972 and

NEWS in brief

Telephone ends freeze on rates

Telephone announced yesterday it was raising cellular phone rates by 6.5% after a more than four year freeze in prices, during which time the cost-of-living index rose by 54%.

Telephone said that the rise amounts to two to four agorot per minute, and that the fixed monthly fee will not be increased. The charge for air time will be 71.35 agorot (plus VAT), compared to 67 agorot beforehand, during regular hours and 36.21 agorot (plus VAT) instead of 34 agorot, later in the day.

Judy Siegel

Hammer released from hospital

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer was released yesterday from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem after being treated with antibiotics for what his spokesman called an "infection."

Hammer was expected to make a gradual return to his job, his spokesman added.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Murder victim's car found in Jenin

The Palestinian Police has located the missing car of Haifa businessman Yigal Almagor, who was murdered last week. The car was found abandoned in Jenin and has been handed over to police in Haifa. A suspect in the murder, Shadi Yusef Shaban, 21, of Sakhnin, has been remanded. Police said he had admitted killing Almagor and stealing his car and selling it in Jenin. Shaban claimed at the remand hearing last week that confession had been forced out of him.

David Rudge

Ministries to issue injunction against teachers

The Union of Local Authorities and the Finance and Education ministries plan to ask the National Labor Court to issue an injunction against the Secondary School Teachers Association which would require it to halt sanctions and renew out-of-school activities until the court rules on their situation.

The teachers are seeking regular hourly pay for accompanying pupils on school trips and other after-school activities. They launched their sanctions in September, halted them to allow negotiations, but resumed them last week when those talks failed. Hisadruv Teachers Union members have also launched sanctions in support of the association's demands.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Young worker crushed to death in accident

Eighteen-year-old Bilal Adawi was crushed to death when a truck overturned and fell on top of him at a construction site in the Tziporit industrial zone near Nazareth yesterday morning.

Magen David Adom paramedics tried in vain to resuscitate Adawi, from Turan village in lower Galilee. The accident was under investigation by police and the Labor Ministry.

David Rudge

Jubilee kicks off in Nazareth

The Jubilee, an event aimed at better understanding and a reconciliation of the differences among the world's nations and religions, is to be launched tonight in Nazareth, with the participation of Mayor Ramiz Jaraisi, Rabbi David Rosen, Israel director of the Anti-Defamation League, and Cardinal Milos Lev Vilik of Prague. This is to be the first of a series of international events leading up to the night of December 31, 1999, when a 24-hour television broadcast is to convey celebrations around the world.

Haim Shapiro

260 Ethiopian families get computers

Ethiopian families in Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachi, Ramle, Ashkelon and Kiryat Yam have received computers as part of a "Computer for Every Child" project initiated by high-tech businessmen and carried out by Joint-Israel and the local authorities.

The cost of the project aimed at teaching immigrant children new skills, is \$350,000 a year. The families are getting eight months of training from university students, who visit their homes once a week as part of the Perah program. The PCs will also be hooked up to the Internet. Parents will also be taught how to use the computers.

Judy Siegel

ITV pioneer Antoine Salah commemorated

The Jerusalem branch of the Association of Israeli Journalists and ITV yesterday held a seminar on tolerance to commemorate ITV director Antoine Salah who died in Australia at 59.

Salah was born in Nazareth and received his theater education here and at the Sorbonne in Paris.

He was one of the founders of ITV in 1968, and worked there as a director in both Jewish and Arabic programming until his emigration to Australia in 1988. However, he returned frequently and shortly before his death on October 29 had completed the Arabic version of *Sesame Street* for ITV.

Helen Kaye

Shabbat with Arafat

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Ranit Budale's Shabbat usually includes good meals, a nap, study, and spending time with friends. But the Hebrew University student got a little something extra this time: a handshake from Yasser Arafat, while she and some 80 other students from Netivot Shalom spent Shabbat in Gaza.

The visit was planned when "as a religious movement, we reached the conclusion that we must prove to the Palestinian public and the religious public in Israel that we can achieve peace, and that it can be reached based on our religious principles and sources, which command us to do so," she said.

The group was hosted by "several Palestinian organizations who want peace," she said, including Palestinian students from El Azher University and Gaza's Islamic College, and housed at the Palestine Hotel on the beach.

Arrangements were made through contacts developed over the years by Yohanan Tzoref, one of the leaders of the organization, who served as the adviser on Arab affairs for the Civil Administration, and later as part of the civilian liaison committee in the area.

Tzoref said that "we've been very upset with what has been happening with the peace process. We wanted to send a message to the Israeli and Palestinian public that there is a religious body which thinks otherwise, and that there is a chance to reach peace with us, despite the religious right which we believe misuses Halacha."

The Israeli students were warmly received by their hosts. "The Palestinian students were thirsty to hear what we had to say," Budale, who heads the organization's student group on the Hebrew University campus, said. "They said that their covenant is no longer valid, and that they wanted to live in peace. We told them that they must say these things publicly."

Tzoref said some of the Israelis came with images of the Palestinians as the devil, but they left with very different views.

Among those who visited with the group was Hisham Abdel Razeq, a former Hamas terrorist who was injured while preparing a bomb, and served two years in prison. "He said that once a channel of communication is open, one can abandon terrorism," Budale recalled.



A Palestinian policeman (with hat) poses with some of the Netivot Shalom students. Ranit Budale is in the center of the front row.

"The hotel did everything to make us comfortable, and there was no fear at all," Tzoref said. "Things are very quiet in Gaza, and the PA is completely in control there."

Wine, challot, and cookies were brought by the students from Jerusalem, while their Palestinian hosts were told to buy all the other food - all dairy - from Tuuva distributors.

The biggest surprise came just before Shabbat ended, when PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath arrived to meet with the group. But Shaath was just bringing a message from Chairman Yasser Arafat, who knew about the meeting in advance and wanted to meet with the Israeli students in the presidential palace.

Shabbat wasn't out yet, however, so the group of Israeli and Palestinian pupils took to the beach hand-in-hand and hiked to the palace, "with a PA jeep in front of us and another in back of us, and PA policemen also accompanying us," Budale said.

"We and the Palestinian students stood in the palace in a large circle, and then Arafat came in and he went around and shook hands with each of us," she recalled.

"It was a little difficult for me to shake hands with someone who was a murderer in the past, but for the sake of the peace process, and because of what I believe is his

honest desire to abandon terror, I was prepared to do so."

Arafat told the students that peace would only be achieved through such meetings.

Netivot Shalom general secretary Yitzhak Frankenthal told Arafat that achieving peace "is very dependent on our ability to speak clearly, with a clear message, and not a double one, regarding the meaning of peace and the meaning of security for both the Palestinian and the Israeli leadership."

Frankenthal, whose son Aryeh was murdered by Hamas terrorists in July 1994, told Arafat he supports peace "as a clear message to the terrorists that terrorism will not win out."

In a statement issued by the organization following the weekend, the Israeli participants said: "We leave here encouraged. The information we received during these discussions, the answers we heard from lecturers and representatives of the PA and important organizations, even if some it still needs to be clarified, strengthens our readiness and desire to continue such meetings. Netivot Shalom organizers plan to hold a similar dialogue in Israel after Ramadan. As for Budale, she was still getting over the unusual weekend. "As a member of a Jewish organization," she said, "I never believed 48 hours ago that we would actually spend a Shabbat in Gaza."

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IMF: Asia to shave 1% off '98 world growth

By JEREMY PELOFSKY

WASHINGTON — The financial turmoil engulfing Asia will knock nearly one full percentage point off economic growth around the world next year, according to a revised outlook from the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF now projects world GDP growth will slow to 3.5 percent in 1998 — if not lower — down from the 4.3% growth rate predicted in the Fund's September World Economic Outlook.

The slowdown will hit hardest in South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia, which have all sought financial assistance from the IMF to stabilize their currencies, pay off short-term debt denominated in foreign currencies and strengthen their financial systems. The IMF has led nearly \$100 billion in international lending programs for the three countries in the last four months. The IMF said its new forecast assumes vigorous

reforms. "Hesitation in the implementation of needed adjustment and reform measures can only worsen the crisis, cause markets to overshoot even further than they have done to date, and exacerbate contagion both to other emerging market countries and to the advanced economies," the authors wrote.

While the Asian slowdown will affect the US economy, mostly through weaker demand for US exports, the strength of the US will ease the blow to the global economy.

"Domestic demand in North America, and to some extent western Europe, is expected to remain strong in 1998," said Michael Mussa, director of research at the IMF. "The downward revisions ... for these large industrialized economies and for the world as a whole, is smaller than the negative impact coming out of Asia and some other emerging markets."

The Asian slowdown will inevitably lead to a shift in the flow of trade, Mussa said. "I think it is reasonable to anticipate with these large shifts in competitive positions, it will certainly affect the trade competitiveness and therefore to some degree the trade flows."

"How large those effects will be are another matter," he added.

Mussa said the latest IMF forecast was on the optimistic side, and further revisions will depend on developments in Asia.

Nonetheless, "it is fortunate not to have all parts of the world economy face the prospects of a mutual reinforcing slowdown of growth simultaneously," Mussa said.

Responsibility for the slump in the world GDP growth rate will fall mostly on the shoulders of South Korea, the world's 11th largest economy. Growth in South Korea is expected to hit 6.0% for 1997 and then drop off to 2.5% or

less in 1998, Mussa said. Growth in Thailand is expected to be 0.6% for 1997 and fall to zero in 1998, while growth in Indonesia will reach 5.0% in 1997 and fall to 2.0 percent in 1998.

"Korea's growth rate will slow very dramatically because of the problems presently besetting the Korean economy and to some degree because of policies needed to deal with those problems and to restore to Korea to the pace of economic advance that has characterized its past accomplishments and that reflects its longer-term financial potential."

The Korean economy came to a screeching halt last month because the government wasn't able to repay or roll over short-term debts and stop a run on its currency. As a result, the Korean government had to seek assistance from the IMF and other nations.

To obtain access to the almost \$60 billion in foreign aid packaged by the IMF, the Korean government

agreed to open its financial markets to foreign investment; close banks saddled with bad debt; break up or close down inefficient industrial conglomerates; and build foreign currency reserves.

"I suspect that for Korea, our forecast is a bit on the high side, a little bit for this year and I fear more so for next year," Mussa said. The IMF predicted Japan, already expecting reduced growth in part because of financial restructuring, will experience growth of about 1.0% this year and 1.1% in 1998.

"The crisis in the emerging markets of Asia and the domestic slowdown in Japan was already partly apparent by late summer and was reflected to some degree in the projections published in the October outlook, Mussa said.

US GDP growth will fall from 3.8% in 1997 to 2.4% in 1998, the IMF said. It had predicted in October US growth of 3.9% this year and 1998 growth of 2.6%.

If it weren't for the Asian contagion, Mussa said the Federal Reserve, which sets US monetary policy and the target US overnight bank lending rate, currently at 5.50%, would have raised interest rates in November and December to slow the US economy.

Instead, "what the Federal Reserve is doing quite sensibly is sitting back and watching developments," Mussa said. The IMF growth forecast is based on the view that the Fed will raise the federal funds rate by 40 basis points in 1998. The Fed hasn't raised the overnight bank lending rate since March when it was raised from 5.25%.

"There is no immediate threat of an upsurge of inflation" in the US, Mussa said. However, "they will need to make a judgment as 1998 proceeds whether in fact inflationary pressures remain in abeyance."

As Japan's economy began to sag earlier in this decade, the flow

of speculative capital shifted from Japan to riskier markets such as Thailand and Indonesia, in search of higher returns.

Net capital inflows for newly industrialized nations in 1996 set a record at \$259.3 billion, the IMF said. That will drop to \$181.5 billion this year, it predicts.

Flemming Larsen, deputy director of the IMF research department, said last year's large inflows were due in part to "over-exuberance on the part of international investors, which in the end led to an excessive compression of yield spreads on emerging market debt instruments."

Now, "there will be greater competition in international capital markets... which will also tend to slow these capital flows to emerging market countries," Larsen said. "We probably can also expect in the longer run to see a continued trend toward diversification," he said. (Bloomberg)



Former South Korean presidents Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan appear in court in an August 1996 file photo. (AP)

S. Korea engulfed by amnesty, reform drama

By KIM MYONG-HWAN

SEOUL (Reuters) — The first full week of Kim Dae-jung's transition to power in crisis-hit South Korea will start dramatically today with the freeing of two disgraced predecessors and a host of crucial financial reforms.

While the president-elect does not officially take the reins of power until February 25, he will be increasingly influential in state affairs.

The government's most pressing priority in the week ahead will be to ensure ailing financial institutions are able to meet multi-billion dollar debt obligations due at the year-end, in order to stave off a lingering specter of sovereign debt default.

"Unfortunately, no one seems to clearly know whether South Korea can meet the obligations," said an analyst at ABN AMRO Hoare Govett Asia.

On Saturday, Kim held a crisis meeting with incumbent President Kim Young-sam at which they reiterated their intention to abide by the terms of a nearly \$60-billion International Monetary Fund bailout package.

Kim Dae-jung alarmed financial markets by saying during his election campaign that he would renegotiate the strict terms of the agreement if elected, although he subsequently back-pedaled.

Five IMF officials, including Asia-Pacific director Hubert Neiss, arrived in Seoul yesterday, and US Deputy Treasury Secretary David Lipton is expected to arrive today, according to domestic media.

They will meet officials at the Finance Ministry to express their views about the country's efforts to mend the financial

system. "Assessments by those visitors will be critical to further supplies of IMF-led loans," said Kim Min-tae, analyst at LG Economic Research Institute.

At the same meeting, the two Kims horrified human rights groups by agreeing an amnesty for former presidents Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo Hwan and 23 of their associates jailed in connection with a corruption scandal, a 1979 coup, and an army massacre a year later.

A Justice Ministry official said the two former presidents would be released in this morning after a cabinet endorsement.

A presidential statement said the move, which should help ease right-wing mistrust of Kim Dae-jung but which was immediately slammed by human rights groups, is being taken in the interests of national unity at a time of economic crisis.

Nevertheless, analysts said South Korea's financial markets would sag this week.

"The current economic malaise is too grave to be cured by a handful of reforms and a comic political ploy," said Kim of LG.

The markets greeted Kim Dae-jung's election with nervously on Friday and kept their eyes on the country's stark debt realities.

The won briefly lost about 11 percent of its value against the dollar early on Friday, but ended at 1,550, still far lower than Wednesday's close of 1,481.0. Thursday was a holiday for the presidential election.

The composite stock index plunged 5.13% on Friday as renewed concerns about hard-ship accompanying the IMF package. It recovered only 0.8% to close at 400.19 points on Saturday. Turbulence in other markets

pushed benchmark yields on three-year corporates to their record highs — 26.14% on Friday and 27.15% on Saturday.

Yesterday the Finance Ministry said it would increase a state fund established to buy bad loans to 20 trillion won (\$12.36 billion) from the current eight trillion won.

Political analysts said the move to free Chun and Roh would please conservatives and help unite disparate political groups at a critical time.

Families of victims of the 1980 army massacre in the southwestern city of Kwangju expressed their willingness to accept the government's decision to free Chun and Roh.

Kwangju is Kim Dae-jung's main support base and scene of the 1980 civilian uprising against the military that was put down by Chun's army with heavy bloodshed.

In a demonstration of a new spirit of national resolve, the three main political parties agreed on Saturday to pass 13 financial reform bills this week in a National Assembly session due to start today.

The legislation would give the central Bank of Korea full authority to plan and implement monetary policy, but strip it of its supervisory power over the banking sector. It also provides for the setting up of a temporary organization to undertake liquidation of ailing financial institutions.

Supervision of the financial sector would be taken over by a financial supervisory board under the Finance Ministry.

A spokesman for the majority Grand National Party also said the parties had agreed to allow issuance of bearer bonds — long-term instruments that allow investors to remain anonymous.

Low turnout in Serb election amid opposition's boycott

Clinton leaves for tour of US troops in Bosnia

By LAURENCE MCQUELLAN

BELGRADE (Reuters) — Serbians voted in presidential elections yesterday with the authorities fearful that an opposition boycott and voter apathy could invalidate the result for the second successive time.

The ruling Socialist Party conducted an intensive campaign to mobilize enough support for its candidate, Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic, to ensure that the turnout among the 7.2 million electorate crossed the legal threshold of 50 percent.

Milutinovic, who led in the first round two weeks ago, faced ultra-nationalist Radical Party (SRS) leader Vojislav Seselj, who failed to win in the first vote in October only because the turnout was a fraction too low.

Opposition parties and leaders of the 1.2 million ethnic Albanian voters in the southern province of Kosovo called for a boycott of the latest vote because it did not meet their demands for democratic reforms of the election process.

The independent monitoring organization Cesis claims the turnout at noon was 14.6 percent, compared with 16.7% at the same stage in October, and said numerous irregularities had been reported.

Seselj, who came from behind to defeat Socialist candidate Zoran Ljilic in October, warned the authorities not to try to rig the vote in favor of Milutinovic, a close ally of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

"We will recognize no manipulation of theirs, no forgery at all," he said.

Seselj claimed in October that he was cheated by election officials setting the turnout at under 50% to prevent him gaining the presidency, held by the Socialists and their Communist predecessors without a break since the end of World War II.

As president, the nationalist party leader would be a potentially dangerous challenger to the authority of Milosevic, who was forced by the constitution to relinquish his Serbian power base last July.

Milosevic already suffered one setback when a reformist foe, Milo Djukanovic, won the presidency of Montenegro, Serbia's partner in the Yugoslav federation.

Victory for Seselj would further undermine Milosevic, but would also risk throwing Yugoslavia's troubled relations with the outside world into further disarray. Political sources said

Milutinovic was handpicked by Milosevic as a candidate who would do his bidding without question if elected.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton left for Bosnia yesterday on a Christmas-time mission to underscore his appreciation for the US troops in the region and highlight the need for an indefinite American commitment.

Clinton's visit comes only days after he announced it was a "mistake" to set a specific timetable for withdrawal of US forces from Bosnia and that he and his NATO partners are drafting plans for a long-term stay.

In a bid to silence Republican critics of his decision to scrap plans for a US withdrawal by next June, Clinton will be joined on his journey by Bob Dole — who unsuccessfully challenged him in last year's election.

The one-day visit begins today in Sarajevo with Clinton meeting privately with the three-man presidency that has been established to ensure the representation of the key factions.

After delivering an address to the people of Sarajevo, Clinton will fly to Tuzla where he will visit with some of the 8,500 US troops in Bosnia. He is slated to return to Washington early tomorrow.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said that "this will be a symbolic visit not only to those troops in Bosnia, but a representative salute to all the 106,000 American men and women who are serving far from home during this holiday season."

He said the visit gives Clinton a chance "to get his own personal assessment from his commanders on the ground and from other representatives of NATO nations their sense of the tasks that lie ahead."

Clinton has attached a number of conditions to continued American participation. He said the US must retain command of the NATO force, that it be sufficient in size to defend itself and achieve its mission, and that European allies take on a greater share of the cost.

European leaders put heavy pressure on Clinton to maintain the US military presence, saying the entire 33,000-strong international peacekeeping force could collapse if the Americans leave.

A relatively large entourage was traveling with Clinton, including: first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; Dole's wife Elizabeth, who is head of the American Red Cross; and nearly a dozen members of Congress.

New technique allows much earlier abortion

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Doctors around the US are using a new technique that allows women to abort a fetus as early as eight to 10 days after conception. The New York Times reported yesterday.

Doctors had traditionally wanted to wait until the sixth or seventh week of pregnancy to have a fetus big enough to see on tests and be sure that they had completely removed it, the Times said.

The new technique, which uses a hand-held syringe instead of a vacuum pump, is similar to "menstruation extraction" devices used before abortion was legalized, the paper said.

The procedure was pioneered by Dr. Jerry Edwards, medical director of the Houston Planned Parenthood. So far, 23 Planned

Parenthood clinics have begun to offer the procedure, the Times said.

The technique was made possible by advances in highly sensitive pregnancy tests, which can show whether a woman is pregnant even before she misses a menstrual period.

"For most women, the sooner they know they're pregnant, and

the sooner they decide what they're going to do, the better," Dr. Michael Barnhill, vice president for medical affairs at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America told the Times.

"With these very early abortions, we're talking about a gestational sac the size of a matchstick head. It's nobody's picture of a little baby sucking its thumb."

Dr. Edwards said the procedure was made possible by advances in highly sensitive pregnancy tests, which can show whether a woman is pregnant even before she misses a menstrual period.

"For most women, the sooner they know they're pregnant, and

Diana's family to sue Mohammed Al Fayed

LONDON (Reuters) — The family of Princess Diana is planning to sue Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed for at least eight million pounds (\$13.4 million) over her death in a high-speed car crash in Paris in August, the Sunday Times said.

The sum is the amount of the inheritance tax bill on the 21 million pounds she left to her sons, Princes William and Harry, the newspaper said.

It said advisers to the Princess's

estate were also considering a claim for a further 25 million pounds that would have accrued on her wealth had she lived to old age.

"One of the effects of her death has been to trigger an inheritance tax liability," the newspaper quoted a royal source as saying.

"The tangible figure is the tax liability, perhaps with some sort of interest accumulator because of the early incidence of (her death). The tax has become payable maybe 30 years earlier than it should have

been," the source continued.

The car in which Diana died was driven by Henri Paul, an employee of the Ritz hotel in Paris, which is owned by Al Fayed.

Al Fayed's son Dodi, Diana's lover, was also killed in the crash, as was Paul.

Tests after the midnight accident showed that Paul had drunk more than three times the French drink-drive limit before setting out. He had been driving at over 100 miles an hour.

The newspaper said that Diana's mother Frances Shand-Kydd and her sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale had registered as civil parties to the investigation into the accident by French police.

As executors of her will, this will give them access to all the evidence.

The only survivor of the crash was Diana's bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones who has been unable to remember the crash or the events leading up to it.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Spokesman's Office

BOARD OF EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL LICENSE

According to the State of Israel Physician's Regulations 1988, the examination for medical license will be held at 08:00 a.m. on, **FEBRUARY 2, 1998**, at Ganai Hata'aruha, Bvd. Rokach, Tel Aviv.

The examination can be taken in the following languages:
Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

The examinees will be asked to present their original Identity Card plus a photo copy of the Identity Card.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Spokesman's Office

BOARD OF EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL LICENSE FOR INTERNSHIP

According to the State of Israel Physician's Regulations 1988, the examination for license for internship will be held at 08:00 a.m. on, **FEBRUARY 2, 1998**, at Ganai Hata'aruha, Bvd. Rokach, Tel Aviv.

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Elvis Costello at the crossroads

By DAVID BAUDER

During the past year, Elvis Costello has appeared on David Letterman's show four times with four different collaborators: Burt Bacharach, the Fairfield Four, the Jazz Passengers, and Toshi Reagon and Big Lovely.

For those keeping track, that's a pop/classicist, a gospel quartet, a modern jazz outfit featuring former Blondie singer Deborah Harry, and an obscure Manhattan rock band.

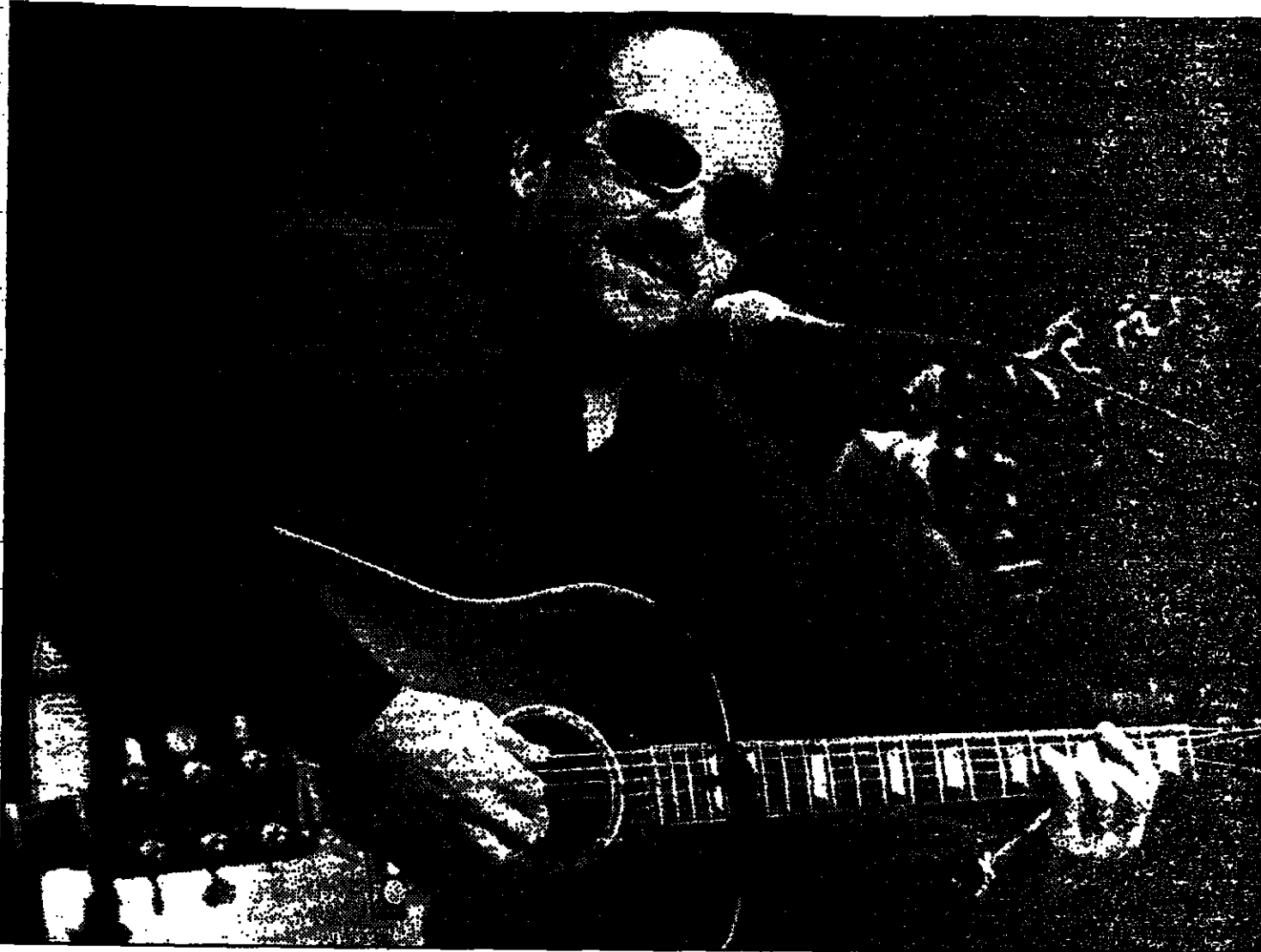
It's typical Costello in the 1990s, where he's changed direction so much it's a wonder he doesn't have whiplash. Even fans accustomed to the twists and turns of an eclectic 20-year career that began with blasts of angry punk rock have to be shaking their heads. What's up with Elvis Costello? He acknowledges he's given his followers quite a challenge. But don't expect any apologies. "I'm not trying to annoy them," he said. "I have to be prepared to lose people who want everything to stay the same, in order to gain the people who are prepared to listen with all their heart. That's much more important, really."

At 42, Costello is at a career crossroads. He's broken up his long-time backup band for the second time, released a compilation disc that's essentially a "divorce settlement" from his record label, and is about to sign a new deal to distribute his music for the next several years.

The disc, *Extreme Honey* is an overview of his decade recording for Warner Bros. Records. It includes one hit, "Veronica," several overlooked songs and one new one, "The Bridge I Burned," which features Costello's son, Matt MacManus, on bass.

"I have no complaint with the musical freedom I've been allowed over the past nine years," Costello said. "I think I've exploited it in my own way, sometimes to the detriment of commercial logic... But the shoddy treatment I've had over the last three years had to end. I was either going to quit or they were going to let me out," he said, referring to his contract.

Costello feels the company didn't do enough to sell his music over the past few years. Corporate suits at Warner may be partly to blame. Don't discount, however,



Elvis Costello warms up for his appearance on CBS's "The Late Show with David Letterman."

(AP)

et, company resentment at Costello's own wobbly output. A classical album and collection of obscure cover tunes are not the easiest things to sell in today's marketplace.

Costello's anger reached such proportions that, in a devilishly twisted move, he commissioned musicians like Tricky, Lush and Sleeper to "deface" some of the songs from his *All This Useless Beauty* album with their own versions. His vision of a musical form of graffiti backfired because the artists were too "nice" to the songs. And Warner never released the new versions domestically.

Costello chooses his latest album's title, notes to announce the final dissolution of his band, the Attractions. In their prime,

they rivaled the E Street Band and the Heartbreakers as rock's most cohesive backup unit. But since their former leader referred to them in an interview as "that sorry carcass," don't expect another reunion tour soon.

Costello's ongoing conflict with Bruce Thomas seems the chief reason. Costello said Thomas "just couldn't concentrate anymore and was making a lot of embarrassing mistakes." And the Attractions had taken pride in never being erratic.

As for the music, "We set a very high standard, and the last thing I wanted it to be was a sorry excuse for it."

He's committed to continue working with keyboard player Steve Nieve, and they are booked for a second tour as a duo.

With other commitments to Bacharach, the classical Brodsky Quartet and a rock soundtrack song for a Coen Brothers film, he intends to make the most of his freedom. Costello's stylistic wanderings stem from a voracious musical appetite that began almost before he could talk. He is the son of a dance band singer from Liverpool who constantly brought test pressings of popular music into the home.

His first album under his new deal is likely to be a full-length collaboration with Bacharach. The two wrote "God Give Me Strength." "We've gotten along quite well, given that there are a lot of years between us," Costello said. "I think that he is quite misread by people as being Mr. Affable or easy listening. I think

his music is very erotic, completely sensual and very dark at times." Their new songs make "God Give Me Strength" sound "like the Partridge Family," Costello said.

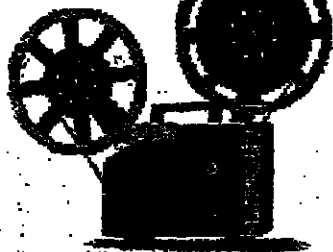
He's got his next five albums mapped out, although there's always room to be sidetracked.

But the ultimate goal for one of rock's great wordsmiths is a record with no words at all. "If I ever make an instrumental record that's really moving and does the same thing as an album with songs, go immediately to the stone mason to buy my headstone because that would be the end of it," he said. "The great thing is to have an objective that's almost impossible to achieve because then you have something to strive for."

(AP)

Strike up the band

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Set in a fictional Yorkshire coal-mining town with the pointedly bleak name of Grimley, *Brassed Off* is a small British film that blends in rough

BRASSED OFF

Written and directed by Mark Herman. Hebrew title: *Hatzmoret*. 108 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor, Stephen Tompkinson
but effective measure elements of melodrama and fable. The movie's blunt anti-Tory message may seem a bit crude when compared to that of a more nuanced and slyly polit-

ical picture like *The Full Monty* (whose themes and backdrop are quite similar). But *Brassed Off* also has its rawness to recommend it. First-time writer/director Mark Herman clearly feels real anger toward Margaret Thatcher for closing down so many coal pits, and the immediacy of his emotions comes through with unmistakable force, in many ways excusing the film's close brushes with kitsch.

The picture takes place in 1992, during the week when the fate of the Grimley pit will finally be decided. In the wake of severe strikes, the government wants to shut the operation down — "coal is history" as one of the profiteering bureaucrats called in to handle the closure smugly puts it — and the miners must vote whether to accept a payoff or hold their ground in possibly futile hopes of keeping the place open.

Meanwhile, another drama is unfolding alongside the larger pit-passion-play: the colliery band, led by a devoted lifelong resident of the town, Danny (Pete Postlethwaite), is also facing its probable demise, due both to external and internal factors. Not only does the specter of future unemployment haunt the men, who can hardly afford to pay their band dues, but whatever happens to the pit, most of the miner-musicians have already given up hope

— and with it any interest in perky brass marches.

And though the future of Grimley itself hangs in the balance, Danny's all-consuming wish is to see the ensemble triumph in a local competition, and possibly travel on to the finals at the Royal Albert Hall.

The victory he strives for is at once symbolic and quite literal: he has nothing to live for besides his music, and as the band's prospects wane, so does his health. Danny's lungs are diseased from the many years he's spent down in the mine, and the bitterly resigned attitude of the other men may just be enough to kill him.

Postlethwaite provides the movie with its sad, strong emotional anchor and ultimately with its unexpected strain of optimism. (For all its characters' obvious despair, *Brassed Off* is actually quite winning.) Herman manages to convey his broader social message, too, by spreading the sentiment — and suffering — around. The film has its share of well-known actors, including post-prize Ewan McGregor, as one of the miners, and Tara Fitzgerald, who appears as a fluegel-toting former Grimleyite who has returned for mysterious reasons of her own and started playing pickup with the band. But the movie is an ensemble piece at heart, and much of its strength derives from



Tension caused by the colliery's imminent closure gets to Phil (Stephen Tompkinson).

its painfully wide-spread focus.

Danny's son (Stephen Tompkinson), his wife and their children are hit hard by the depression that's befallen the town, and Herman is careful to flesh out the supporting cast with a group of fine actors: Jim Carter, Peter Marín and Philip Jackson each play crucial minor (and minor) roles.

Though Herman occasionally makes his social points a bit too stridently — resorting, for example, to a series of heavy-handed juxtapositions between the bleakness of the miners' lives and the cheerful bounce of their music (played by an actual colliery band, from the town of Grimethorpe); alternately, in one early scene, an especially

maudlin number is used to underscore the tragedy of Grimley. And Herman relies on further facile irony when Tompkinson's character dresses up as Mr. Chuckles the clown to make extra money at birthday parties and winds up facing off, in red plastic nose and crazy flipper shoes, with the men who have come to repossess his furniture.

But the director's fierce need to make the plight of the miners known is understandable, and the horrible actuality of the situation seems to justify the use of a few tear-jerking gimmicks. Indeed, even if you know full well you're being manipulated, *Brassed Off* is likely both to charm you and make you cry.

International youth orchestras — who needs them?

The International Symphony Orchestra will perform seven concerts in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv December 23-January 5. And therein lies a pertinent quandary.

In the last week, two eminent musicians commented on these pages that there could be nothing more degrading for a string player than to play in a symphony orchestra where "the conductor tells you what to play and the concert master tells you how to play it."

Be that as it may — and there is much truth to this statement — hundreds of young musicians graduate every year as competent string players from music schools, conservatories and academies all over the world, knowing that they will spend their life playing classical music in a symphony orchestra. Granted, some will become soloists, a few even highly successful ones. Others might be able to embark on a career of chamber-music playing. But most will join an orchestra.

It is not a nine-to-five but a 10-to-midnight job, where indeed there is not that much artistic creativity involved. When these musicians are young, though,

they do not regard playing in an orchestra as something uncreative. On the contrary. For them, playing with other professional young musicians is probably the fulfillment of all their dreams. It is at that moment they realize that making music by oneself is wonderful, but being part of a larger musical whole is even more gratifying.

There are far fewer vacancies in orchestral positions than there are musicians willing and able to play in orchestras. The various music schools produce far too many able craftsmen who will never be able to find a job in the business. A young lawyer can always open a private practice and if he or she is good enough, the sky is the limit. But a young musician cannot always survive without an organization which will embrace him.

To prepare young musicians for their career choice, there are many youth orchestras around the world.

The Young Israel Philharmonic has nurtured numerous young Israeli musicians who later became members of the IPO or

other orchestras. This orchestra works regularly, enhancing the musicianship and teamwork of its members. The results are usually very exciting.

There are also the occasional youth orchestras, created for a short period, like the one in the Schleswig Holstein Festival in Germany, where the benefit was to work with some of the greatest conductors in the world, such as Leonard Bernstein.

Then there is the International Symphony Orchestra which has worked in this country during the Christmas season for the past five years. The first year, in Eilat, conductor Lorin Maazel worked with the youngsters, elevating them to unimaginable musical heights. But since that initial year, the venture has failed.

Maazel did return once, but he let his assistant do most of the work and he came just for a final few rehearsals. The results could be heard in the concert.

Who actually needs this venture? Well, the Jerusalem Municipality is more than happy about a so-called "international"

COMMENT

By Michael Aizenstadt

NEWS of the muse

What's in a name?
How do local film distributors decide on Hebrew titles for foreign films? Shani Films came up with a popular solution for the independent American film *Walking & Talking*, which is currently showing in local cinemas. At July's Jerusalem International Film Festival, audiences were invited to submit suggestions for a suitable name. Gadis Zrihan won a year's pass to Jerusalem's Lev Smadar cinema by coming up with the title *Haverot V'hatulin* ("Girlfriends and Cats"). To understand the significance of this "translation," you'd better go see the film. *Jerusalem Post staff*

American poet wins — and presents — prizes
American Jewish poet Alicia Ostriker has just won the prestigious San Francisco State Poetry Center Prize for her 1996 anthology *A Crack in Everything*. A senior professor of English at Rutgers University in New Jersey, Ostriker judged the 1997 Reuben Rose International Poetry Competition for the English-language poetry organization, *Voices*. She was here at the beginning of December to present prizes and conduct a poetry workshop. *Helen Kaye*

Theater pioneer to get Life Achievement Award
The Jerusalem municipality has announced a Life Achievement Award in theater arts education to director Mario Koutliar. He was one of the founders and prime movers of Jerusalem's Train Theater devoted to puppet theater, the School for Visual Theater, the multidisciplinary Phenomena Festival, and the Habama Theater. The judges' citation read in part that Koutliar "opened new horizons and created new frameworks [in theater arts] which contributed to Jerusalem's cultural life and radiated throughout the country." Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will present the prize at the municipality on December 30. *Helen Kaye*

Prize-giving to local composers
The Prime Minister's Award for composers, one of the major composition awards in Israel, will be given this year to three Israeli-born composers at a presentation on January 1. The award is the equivalent of a senior teacher's annual salary, enabling the recipients to concentrate on composition for an entire year. The award winners this year are Tsippi Fleischer, Menahem Wiesenberg and Oded Assaf. *Michael Aizenstadt*

Young composers' concert
One of the most important events of the classical music season takes place this Friday (noon) at the Jerusalem Music Center, where the works of five young Israeli composers will be performed. Nurit Jugend, Ronen Shapira, Kobi Arad, Lior Navok and Keren Rosenbaum were all born in the early '70s and most are completing their advanced studies abroad. Young Israeli musicians will perform the works, one by each composer, in a concert which will also be broadcast by the Voice of Music radio network. It will provide a unique opportunity to find out what the young generation of Israeli composers is all about. *Michael Aizenstadt*

Kfar Blum revisited
The Tel Aviv Museum celebrates a mini-chamber music festival this weekend in the style of the Kfar Blum Chamber Music festival, with open rehearsals. Four major concerts will be presented, with musicians who performed this past summer in Kfar Blum, as well as some new and intriguing musicians and programs, including a Kurt Weill program with Miri ("Shir Lashalom") Aloni and pianist Yossi Ben-Nun. Concerts take place Thursday (8:30), Friday (2 and 9:30) and Saturday (8:30). For rehearsal schedule, contact the Tel Aviv Museum. *Michael Aizenstadt*

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Arutzei Zahav - Dan & Sharon Areas	9:30 a.m., 9:00 p.m.

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 Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-536-9527, CIRCULATION—02-531-5610, 177-022-2278, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING—02-531-5608, 02-531-5636-40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277. Published daily except Sunday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Jerusalem Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem, Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1997. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1958 GERSHON AGRON, 1958-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BENDOR, 1975-1989 ARI EARTH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS, 1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN INTERNET EDITIONS: http://www.jpost.co.il General E-mail: jpost@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il Subscriptions E-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

Thanking combat soldiers

Every once in a while a brilliant idea comes along that makes one wonder why no one ever thought of it before. This one began with a letter from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to 70 prominent Israelis asking them to create a scholarship fund for combat soldiers.

Two months later, a fund called "Adopt a Fighter" — aiming to raise NIS 30 million — is taking shape and seems headed for runaway success.

It has recently become almost a fashion to fret about the dwindling motivation among Israeli youth. In 1996, at a memorial one year after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak caused a stir when he berated the growing "hedonism" among the Israeli public. In May of this year, Shahak again spoke of "war-weariness," which again was perceived as a call on Israeli society to reverse the deterioration in the prestige of military service.

Much of the latest round of concern regarding motivation seems to have been triggered by a turn for the worse in its major barometer: volunteering for combat units among new recruits. Mordechai was reportedly shocked to hear new recruits among the August 1996 draftees openly admitting that they did not want to serve in combat units.

Embarrassed, the IDF launched a range of measures to highlight combat units and to improve incentives for draftees, such as doubling their pay and increasing their demobilization bonuses. The new measures, combined with increased awareness of the issue among the public, seem to have had an impact. The IDF induction center reported the "best March draft" in recent memory, with volunteering for combat units up 8 percent from the previous year. The positive trend continued in the following draft last August.

Within combat units themselves, it is important to note, motivation has always remained high to serve in the most dangerous and difficult areas. When a Givati engineering unit, for example, was reassigned from duty at a base considered particularly dangerous in southern Lebanon, the unit protested and the order was revoked. As hard as it sometimes is for their worried parents to accept, combat soldiers

would rather be on the front line than behind it.

The fundamental hardships of serving in combat service remain, however, and it will take more than small benefits here and there to change public attitudes. Combat soldiers not only bear the brunt of the danger of military service, they have the toughest conditions, they get the fewest leaves and — perhaps most gratefully — once they do finish regular service they have more reserve duty than their non-combat peers. At the same time, combat soldiers receive less training in skills directly applicable to the job market, and have no time for outside courses during their service.

Until recently, the IDF has mainly relied on the patriotism of young Israelis and the prestige of combat service to compensate for the heavier load. Whether or not patriotism has eroded, there is a strong perception that society does not value service on the front line the way it used to, and that those pre-military high school students who strive for combat service do so almost against the grain. Fewer than half of such students surveyed believe that Israeli society attaches a higher value to combat service.

Apparently, the fact that even the reports of such trends are so disturbing to so many Israelis holds the key to their reversal, as the warm response to "Adopt a Fighter" has shown. According to one organizer, "the feeling is that hundreds of people were waiting for someone to ask them to help the fighters. No one has said no to us." It is a natural and unavoidable demographic reality that the day-to-day burden of defending the country will fall on an increasingly smaller proportion of young Israelis. While one reaction to this reality may be that striving for combat service becomes less expected of Israelis, the flip side should be that those who do choose the front line are all the more deserving of society's gratitude.

Such gratitude can be expressed in more anti-septic forms, such as through better pay; but at the end of the day, it is more important that society at large, not just the military itself, show its respect for the fighters. The "Adopt a Fighter" scholarship fund should be, as Lipkin-Shahak called it, a "welcome first sapling" through which widespread admiration for combat soldiers can be effectively expressed.

Jubilee vision

by YOSEF GOELL

Tomorrow night, the first candle of Hanukka, was supposed to have been the occasion for marking the initial celebrations of Israel's 50th anniversary. There will be no such celebrations this week. The scope, nature and spirit of the Jubilee Year celebrations which are now scheduled to begin on Independence Day at the end of April, are also very much in question.

Still, the boondoggling and malfunctioning of the defunct planning committee and the present Jubilee Celebrations czar, former Likud Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, are as nothing compared to our real problems, although they would seem to provide depressing corroboration of the suspicions that this government is incapable of doing anything right.

Those of us with the historical perspective provided by simply living through, and actively participating in a sizable chunk of Israel's dramatic history, know that there is much to celebrate and that Israel is one of the greatest success stories of the 20th century. One would never guess it to gauge from the sour public mood of the past few years. A quick survey of the letters to the editor in the Hebrew press as well as in this paper shows that more and more writers have been urging that we skip the celebrations altogether "since there is nothing to celebrate."

To my mind the problem is not so much with the past, of which there is very much to celebrate, but with the murky future. The aptest comment on the causes of the present sour mood should be taken from Proverbs 29:18, *For want of a vision, the people shall perish.*

Anyone with a knowledge of Jewish history; from the Bible, through our ancient national life in this country, our existence in the Diaspora, and the early decades of Zionist resettlement and nation building in this century, knows that we have always

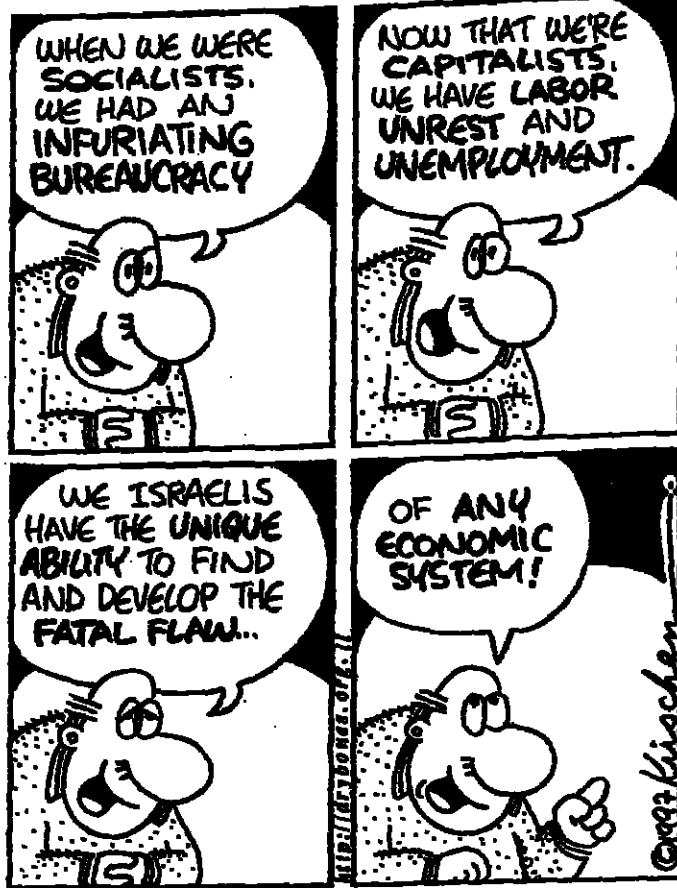
been a cantankerous and argumentative people. When we were lucky enough to have chosen inspiring and capable leaders, they forced us to overcome these nasty streaks in our collective nature and to focus instead on inspiring visions of the future, around which a broad consensus could coalesce. When we were unlucky in our choice of leadership, and lost sight of such exhilarating shared visions of the future, we descended willy-nilly into tearing ourselves apart over our different versions of the past.

Our intellectual, political and media leaders have been investing in an inordinate proportion of their time and energy into arguing over old issues, and in the process, ripping open nearly healed old wounds: Was the Zionist movement simply another version of White European colonialism which was intended primarily to oppress the poor Palestinians (who didn't yet realize that they were Palestinians)? Did the Zionist leaders on the eve of independence heartlessly blind themselves to the fate of the Holocaust victims (who included their own fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters)? Were the (Ashkenazi) Holocaust survivors, and later the Yemenite and Moroccan olim, brought here by the original Zionist settlers primarily to serve as cannon-fodder to win our wars with the Arabs, and as a poor underclass to be exploited for the benefit of the sabra fat cats?

These and many other issues of the more distant and recent past should not be swept under the rug. There is indeed room to debate them and to see if, and where, we went wrong. But the real issues we should be putting our minds to are those of the future.

What sort of future Israel do we envision after we succeed in separating ourselves from our Palestinian neighbors?

Dry Bones



How should we deal with the myriad problems that derive from Israel's having evolved from a relatively empty country into one of the most crowded societies in the modern world?

How can we forge a workable *modus vivendi* between the secular, modern Orthodox and haredi sectors of the Jewish population and between the Jewish majority and our Arab and Druze minorities to replace the previous social and political arrangements which seem to have broken down?

How can we maintain an essential degree of national solidarity when the mechanisms of rapid "post-industrial" modernization seem to be leading to the rich getting obscenely richer and the majority of us to becoming poorer, and dangerously angrier?

How can we forge a new relationship between an Israel which

has succeeded in becoming the center of a world-wide Jewish people and a Diaspora which needs a vibrant relation with that center for its own survival?

There are no clear or easy answers to any of these problems, but they require a tremendous investment of intellectual energy, time, and a readiness to seek solutions through consensus. It is when our chosen leaders fail to lead us to focus on the problems of our joint future, due to their own peachment for living from day to day, if not hour to hour, that the rest of us descend into mutual, destructive nit-picking.

The best way to mark our Jubilee Year would be to pay passing obeisance to our past but then go on to concentrate on our collective future.

The writer comments on public affairs

The relevance of Hanukka

By STEWART WEISS

It is almost a cliché to say that these days the central issue facing World Jewry is that of Unity.

From fricting the constant reports of friction between various factions of the Jewish People over the peace process, or the Reform vs. Orthodox conversion controversy, you might assume that this divisiveness is a new and unique crisis unparalleled in our history. That assumption, simply put, would be wrong. This in-fighting and "we have met the enemy and he is us" mentality is nothing new. In fact, we have an entire Jewish holiday, more than two thousand years old, that is centered around this very phenomenon of Jew vs. Jew.

That holiday is Hanukka. In the popular perception, Hanukka represents the victory of the small Maccabean rebels over the mighty Syrian-Greek army, the dedication of the Temple and re-kindling of the Menorah, and the triumph of Freedom of Religion in the face of would-be spiritual oppression.

But the deeper context of the events of Hanukka tell a different story. It revolves around the internal conflict that existed between those Jews who were prepared to adopt Greek mores, customs and dress, and those Jews who were determined to adhere to the tradi-

tional patterns of Jewish life. The Hellenists found Greek culture — with its emphasis on beauty and the physical — fascinating and enticing. The Maccabees, leaders of the faithful, saw in the Greek way of life a denial of the spirit, a preoccupation with the here and now, and a rejection of the Eternal.

It was only when Hellenism began to command significant Jewish attention that the real battle began. The Maccabees were not only heavily outnumbered by an occupying Syrian-Greek army of Antiochus. They were also set against the large numbers of Jews who seemed perfectly content to trade in their Tallit for the Toga, who were more than ready to join the cult of pagan physicality sweeping the known world. Indeed, the first "shot" of the war was fired when Mattityahu, patriarch of the Maccabee clan, caught a fellow Jew sacrificing a pig on a Greek altar. Running him through with his sword — a decisively "non-pluralistic" act — Mattityahu declared, "He who is with G-d follow me," and the clash was on in earnest. The battle raged for more than 13 years, until the Greeks and their foreign influence were expelled from the land and the

temple restored.

This, of course, is the true significance of the Menorah and its flickering lights. While many jars of oil were actually found in the Temple after the war, only one, solitary container was found with its seal of purity still intact. Only that one jar could be used, for it, like the Maccabees themselves, had remained undefiled and undecorated. The fact that this little jar lasted eight nights — until new, equally pure oil could be processed — was a symbol that the spark of Judaism would be maintained through unsullied, unalloyed purity, regardless of the number of followers who stayed loyal to their principles.

It is ironic then, I think, that Hanukka is observed so universally among Jews of all countries. Even the most assimilated Diaspora Jew — who never ventures into a synagogue, who practices no other traditions and considers his Jewishness an "accident of birth" — will invariably identify somehow with the Hanukka spirit. He will light a candle in his window, eat a latke or jelly-doughnut, dispense Hanukka gelt to his family or look forward to receiving his own presents in a kind of

"religious rivalry" with his Christmas-observing neighbors.

What he tragically fails to understand is that the battle of Hanukka was waged specifically to eradicate the kind of assimilation and willing abdication of Jewish identity which this Jew personifies. If he dresses, talks and acts in a non-Jewish fashion, mimicking the ideas and ideals of the culture surrounding him, then his Menorah is no a beacon of loyalty to G-d.

It is more a mockery of the very holiday which he commemorates. Hanukka's essential message is that a small number of Jews — if they remain pure to Jewish practice and purpose — can accomplish miracles. Though they are a minority within a minority, they can maintain Jewish growth in the face of massive intermarriage; they can maintain Jewish scholarship in the face of enormous ignorance; they can build a Jewish State in the face of overwhelming apathy. Just the one, small cruse of oil — if it is uncompromising in its dedication to what is good and right and holy — can dispel the vast darkness that all too often engulfs our world.

Rabbi Stewart Weiss is director of the Jewish Outreach Center of Ra'anana

Dog days in the golden age

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

What does it mean when the major item in the president's end-of-year news conference is a puppy-naming? It means we should be wistful at the passing of 1997. We may never see another year like it. When a chocolate Lab leads the news, we know times are good.

How good? Look at the numbers. Unemployment is at its lowest in two decades. Inflation hovers at 2 percent, early 1960s numbers. That is not supposed to happen. We have been bred on the axiom that unemployment and inflation are mutually contradictory, that when one form of social misery declines, the other must rise. Well, not anymore.

The economy is growing at more than 5 percent. Hourly wages are up 4 percent. Factories are producing at that perfect knife-edge of near capacity, but not quite so much as to create industrial bottlenecks (and thus shortages and inflation).

Even more amazing are the indices of social pathology, which we once assumed must inexorably get worse. They have reversed course. Crime is down, dramatically. Rape, for example, is down 45 percent since 1993; murder about 30 percent. In New York City, the crime rate has not been this low in 30 years. The

unlivable has become livable again.

Welfare rolls are down, too. After just 12 months of welfare reform (August 1996-July 1997), one in every six welfare recipients has gone off the dole. That is almost 2 million people. In places with aggressive anti-welfare programs such as Wisconsin, rolls have been cut by a third. Even such recalcitrant indices as abortion are down.

Nor are the good times just economic and social. Geopolitically, we are enjoying the fruits of victory in the Cold War. At no time in the past 500 years has the gap in power between the No. 1 nation and its nearest rival been as great as it is today. While the critics had conceded America's military and cultural hegemony — a carrier in every ocean, a Big Mac in every pot — they had long clung to the idea of American economic decline.

And look what happened. We are now riding a productivity and growth spurt that has left the rest of the world in our dust. Europe lives with double-digit unemployment and almost total economic stagnation. Asia, the rising tiger, is now in the throes of a collapse so

great that its ripples, ironically, constitute the one major threat to our current prosperity.

Now the puzzle: If this is a golden age, why doesn't it feel like a golden age? I recently told an assembly at my son's high school that they were living through a time so blessed they would tell their grandchildren about it. They looked at me incomprehensibly. First, because they have known little else but good times. And second, because it is hard for anyone to apprehend the sheer felicity of one's own time until it is gone.

But I suspect there is a third reason: We live in gold — but without glory. We associate golden ages with heroic times like that of Pericles. Our triumphs, in contrast, are of the domestic variety. This is the age of Seinfeld, life in miniature. No great battles, no great art, no great triumphs. We know these are diminished times when our most recent military hero is a pilot who, shot down by ragtag Serbs, manages to survive by hiding in the forests of Bosnia like a "scared little bunny rabbit" (his words: Scott O'Grady's heroism is his honesty).

No matter. Who needs wars?

Who needs heroes? Who needs glory? These things are not sought; they are thrust upon a nation, unwillingly. Britain's finest hour was 1940. Would you choose for your child to live in London during the blitz, or in Lansing under Clinton? By any historical standard, life has never been so good. Why, the news has gotten so absurdly good we have to cast our net very far to find the bad. El Niño is about the best we can do.

Does this mean that the news will only get better? On the contrary. With every passing month of such profound tranquility and prosperity, the implausibility of these times becomes all the more striking.

Golden ages never last. There might be a sudden crisis, perhaps a collapse of economic confidence coming from the Asian contagion. Or perhaps just a gradual undoing of all the self-reinforcing good news: a spike of inflation, a little recession, a rise in welfare, and the whole cycle slowly reverses itself.

I hold with those who say this lovely world will end in ice, not fire. But either way, it must surely end. So enjoy it while it lasts. Because it won't.

Washington Post Writers Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SICK AND TIRED

Sir, — Every new and expensive drug and treatment demanded by AIDS or cancer or diabetes patients will come into use at the expense of the taxpayer, not some anonymous Treasury official. The person who will be forced to pay the Histadrut pensions will not be Yaakov Neeman, but every person who works for a living here in Israel.

Many of us are sick and tired of finding ourselves working harder and longer hours only to pay higher and higher taxes to benefit every single special interest that comes around, or of any group that enjoys the power to impose more expenses on us.

To his credit, the present finance minister has tried to make this very point as clear as possible, the money for these plans has to come from somewhere, not from heaven, not from the "government" — it has to be taken from each and every citizen, more and more every day.

I personally would like to keep more of my hard-earned money to spend as I wish, not as Amir Peretz wishes or as some bureaucrat in the government would like.

KEN BESIG

Kiryat Arba.

COHERENT POLICY

Sir, — Regarding your editorial "Iranian challenge" (December 17), it is hard to believe that a powerless Khatami can succeed in bringing Iran back into the fold. Even harder to believe is the situation that the United States now finds itself but, then again, it has never had a coherent policy regarding Iran.

While certified by the US State Department as a State Sponsor of terrorism with all of its attendant implications, we never knew how to deal with the Iranians. While Libya's Gaddafi has felt the sting of the American military in response to outrages against Americans, America's response to similar Iranian acts has been low key. Instead of a military response to the deaths of Americans at the hands of Iranian sponsored terrorists, America has adopted laws

such as the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1995 which strips countries such as Iran from their immunity to lawsuits arising from such acts.

As the father of a victim of Iranian sponsored terrorism, I would welcome the imposition of sanctions by the Americans against France and the others who line up to drink at the Iranian money well.

As you point out, an uneven US response at this time "will snatch defeat from the jaws of victory..." Let's hope that sanctions are finally applied and that the days of American fence sitting are over. The Iranian government will understand an unequivocal response.

STEPHEN M. FLATOW

West Orange, NJ.

ABORIGINES' EXPENSE

Sir, — I am an Australian volunteer on Kibbutz Devir in the Negev, and as such was interested to read Thomas O'Dwyer's "Land Without a People" (December 12).

The first thing to realize is that Australia is the only country in the world which has "pastoral leases." This involves farmers and their interests leasing land off the national government in return for the right to raise cattle and conduct general farming. A pastoralist — someone with a pastoral lease — does not own the land.

The second thing is that most pastoral leases cover a very large area and as such, the number of pastoralists is quite small. The Sultan of Brunei, Australia's richest man Kerry Packer and certain ministers in the current government have interests in pastoral leases. Hence the people affected, overwhelmingly, are not "battlers" or struggling people, but highly moneyed interests.

In light of these two considerations, make up your own mind whether it is just for a government to allow several wealthy interests to own more than they already do, at the expense of those Aborigines, who don't own anything, and are not going to take away anything.

NABIL DABBAGH

Kibbutz Devir.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 22, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported that the government had taken drastic steps against the Black Scale infection which affected wide areas of citrus cultivation. It had decided to carry out a complete fumigation scheme.

A Beduin was killed in a grazing dispute at Pardes Hanna.

50 years ago: On December 22, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that a leaflet was distributed in Arab villages stating that the Hagana had no aggressive intentions against any Arabs. It wanted peace and constructive work and it warned the villagers against all those who were inciting to bring

bloodshed to Jews and Arabs alike.

Eleven more lives were lost in sporadic exchanges of fire in various parts of the country. There were bus ambushes near Ramle, Tiberias and on the approaches to Tel Aviv. A curfew was imposed on Safed. There was continued sniping on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa boundary and in Haifa where one Arab was killed and three gravely wounded.

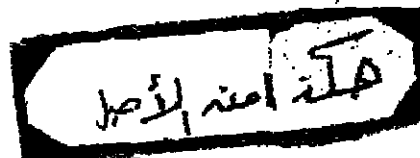
A British Army officer and sergeant-major were wounded when they were attacked by the IZL in King George Street in Jerusalem. It was believed that the shooting was a reprisal for the rape of a Jewish girl by a number

of British soldiers. In Talbich Robert Clive Stern, 43, a British journalist, was shot and killed by Arabs at close range.

25 years ago: On December 22, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat told his War Minister, Ahmed Ismail, to prepare Egypt's armed forces for a battle in six months.

Raiza Pafatnik, the 37-year-old Jewish librarian from Odessa who served two-year sentence for giving Hebrew lessons and alleged possession of anti-Soviet letters and literature, arrived as a new immigrant.

Alexander Zivelt



The World

Searching in Vain for Rwanda's Moral High Ground

By JAMES C. MCKINLEY Jr.

TWO images burn in memory after a year's worth of violence between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups in Central Africa.

A young Hutu woman lies in the city of Kisangani, Congo, her jaw blown off by bullets in an attack by Tutsi soldiers on a Hutu refugee camp in April. Her tortured eyes glare with fear and confusion out of the bloody bandages where her face used to be.

In a border-town hospital in Rwanda, a 4-year-old Tutsi girl struggles to stay alive, her head having been split open by a machete wielded by a Hutu militant attacking Tutsi refugees last week. How the frail child survived the raid, which left 300 other people dead, is a mystery.

An Epic Struggle

These are victims in an epic struggle between two rival ethnic groups that has convulsed Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Congo since 1990, causing more than a million deaths.

Both sides use the word genocide to describe the violence, and it is certainly true that the mass killings by Hutu extremists of a half-million Tutsi civilians in Rwanda in four months in 1994 amounted to a state-orchestrated campaign of extermination.

But outsiders seeking to find clear villains and victims in this conflict quickly run into a moral quagmire. The historical roots of the conflict are tangled and fed with blood. No one's hands are clean. And this yields incredible difficulty in trying to think through what might be done to help this tortured region stop the killing.

In Rwanda, the wellspring of much of the hatred, the Hutu majority lived for centuries under a Tutsi monarchy, then took power when the country gained independence from Belgium. Eventually, Tutsi exiles returned as rebels and, in 1994, when a settlement of a four-year civil war seemed at hand, Hutu extremists seized control and set off a round of mass killing of Tutsi that ended only when the rebels ousted them. The cycle then crossed into Congo during its civil war last year, producing mass murders of Hutu refugees there. It has now returned to Rwanda, where Hutu rebels again kill Tutsi civilians and the Tutsi-led army exacts retribution against the Hutu.

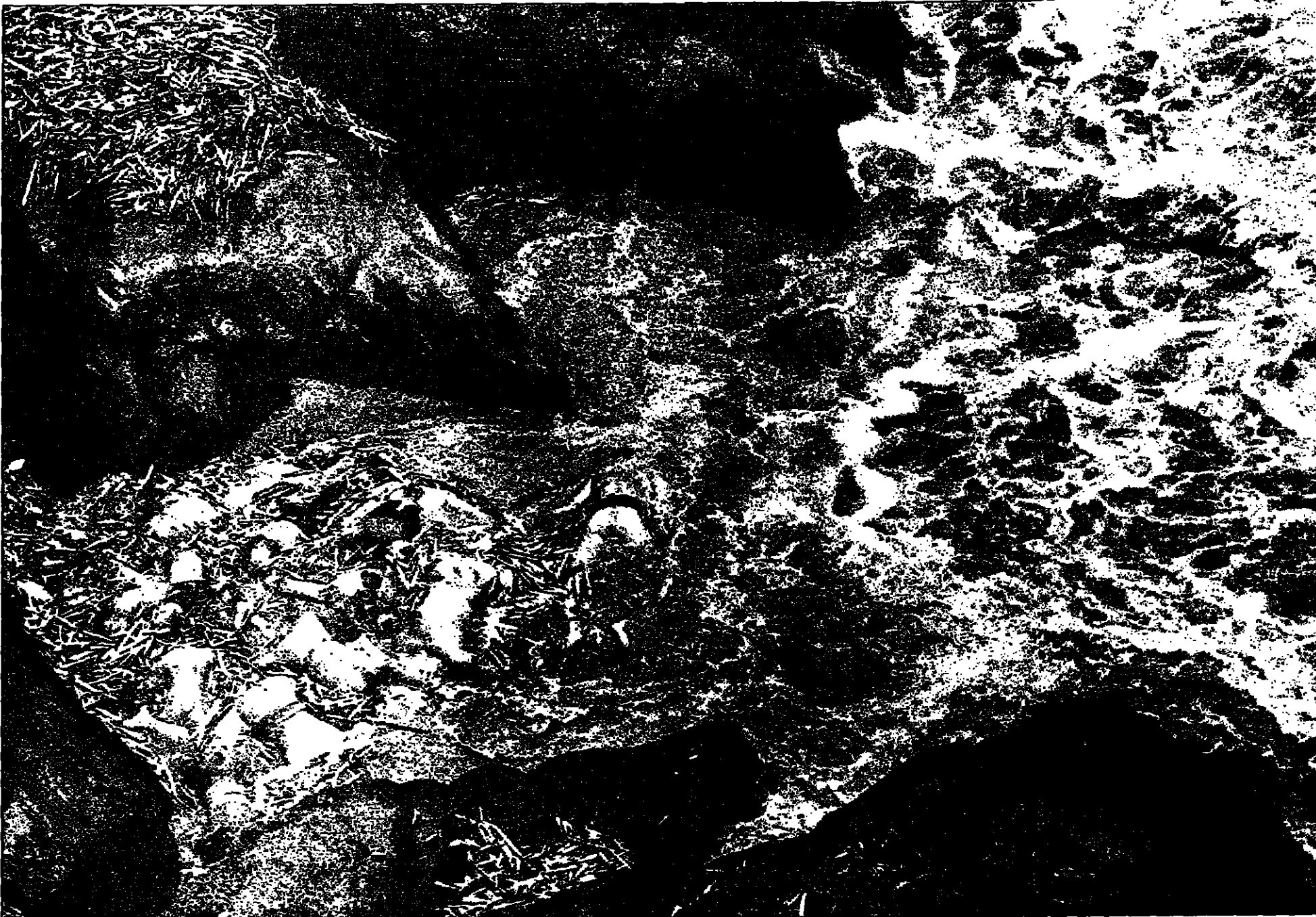
For Westerners, whose concept of genocide has been shaped by the moral clarity of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, the situation in Central Africa is baffling and frustrating. Today's killers often appear to be tomorrow's victims, and vice versa.

"It's not a story of good guys and bad guys," said Filip Reyntjens, a history professor in Antwerp, Belgium, whose specialty is Rwanda. "It's a story of bad guys. Period."

By and large, the United States and other Western democracies have decided to throw their support behind the Government now in power in Rwanda, even though it is in essence a military regime controlled by the minority Tutsi and stands accused of its own human rights violations against the Hutu majority. For most Western governments, this choice was the lesser of two evils.

The Lesser Evil

There are Western diplomats who argue that for all its faults, the Tutsi-led Government offers the best hope for ruling Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 genocide.



During the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, bodies floated at the bottom of a fall on the Kagera River on the Tanzanian border near Rusumo.

But while supporting the Government may serve American security interests, it will not necessarily lead to peace, critics of Washington's policy say. To begin with, it is nearly impossible for the two groups to achieve reconciliation under minority military rule. And that task has been made even more difficult in the last six months: Hutu guerrillas have stepped up a brutal terror campaign in the northwest and the army has responded with killings of unarmed Hutu civilians.

"Everything that means political progress is paralyzed because of the insecurity," one diplomat in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, said. "That's the cornerstone. As long as they don't have this situation controlled in the north, there is no way they can achieve anything else."

What's more, it is not clear that any amount of outside support for the Tutsi leadership in Rwanda can forestall future uprisings by a disenfranchised and angry Hutu majority. Given the country's history, that day of reckoning could be devastating.

But those who would defend this bomb find themselves in a dilemma: How can one criticize the current Government's abuses

without appearing to condone the genocide of 1994? And how can outsiders encourage a negotiated political solution between the Government and exiled Hutu leaders without being accused of forcing victims of genocide to come to terms with the people who tried to exterminate them?

To make matters more difficult, the Hutu militants have no political wing with which to negotiate. Nor do they have a stated political agenda beyond wiping out the Tutsi.

No One Is Talking

Another problem is that many Hutu leaders are discredited, in exile or in jail. Most of the former Hutu officials who were not murdered have been accused of genocidal crimes in Rwandan and international courts. Many of the Hutu who originally supported the current Government have gone into exile, and they do not speak for the radicals now sowing terror in the countryside.

The result is diplomatic paralysis. "Talks are unrealistic," one Western diplomat in Kigali said. "All diplomatic mechanisms that are usually applied to this situa-

tion don't work here. There is only one side you can talk to. It's really hopeless."

The delicate position of Rwanda's allies was evident last week, when Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright visited Kigali. Asked about the Government's human rights record, she gently chastised the army for killing civilians, but also expressed sympathy and understanding for the Tutsi soldiers and their leaders. "There clearly is room for improvement in the human rights record of Rwanda," she said. "But I think it's also important for us to understand how difficult it is for a country that has seen a half-million people slaughtered to put itself back together and reconcile."

Some critics of the Rwandan Government, however, maintain that the Tutsi elite in Kigali have used the genocide of 1994 to justify an undemocratic regime that could not remain in power if the Hutu could vote.

"In my opinion, they use it as a tool to legitimize their rule and to excuse for the gross human rights violations they themselves commit," Mr. Reyntjens said.

In the capital, meanwhile, the Tutsi leadership is becoming more and more defensive

as the guerrilla war escalates. The leaders refuse to negotiate with people they see as genocidal killers. Increasingly, they blame the rest of the world for the mess in Rwanda, arguing that it is the United Nations' fault, because it first did nothing to stop the genocide, then fed and housed the killers in refugee camps for nearly three years.

Things Can Get Worse

This defiant stance does not bode well. At stake is the stability of the region. With racial killings happening daily, the army may have to resort to harsher measures to contain the guerrillas, who despite their brutal methods enjoy the tacit support of much of the population. In addition, the killings of unarmed civilians by soldiers may only work to swell the guerrilla ranks.

"It's clear if no political solutions are found that this is going to get worse and worse and worse," Mr. Reyntjens said. And a diplomat in Kigali summed up the Government's problem: "Why can't they quell it? It is the same story as why the Americans didn't succeed in quelling Vietnam."

Talking to Iran

Phone's Ringing. Wonder Who's on the Line.

By ELAINE SCIOLINO

THE last time an American President tried to talk to his counterpart in Iran, this is what happened:

One day in early 1980, a call came into the Oval Office from an Iranian official who said President Hashemi Rafsanjani wanted to talk to George Bush about American hostages held in Lebanon. The caller refused to leave his number, but said he would call back. American intelligence eavesdroppers traced the call to a high-ranking Government office in Teheran.

A short time later, the man called back. A date and time was set for the call. When the phone rang, President Bush picked up the receiver. The two men chatted through an interpreter for more than half an hour about the fate of the hostages and the desire to repair relations between the United States and Iran. The Iranian promised to broadcast a special message on Iran's national radio as a sign of good will. When it never came, Mr. Bush got the message.

He had been duped. As the White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, admitted afterward, hoaxes are "always a little embarrassing."

Now, seven years later, Iran's new President, Mohammad Khatami, and President Clinton have used news conferences to exchange unusually warm words to express their desire for a dialogue.

What if it's for real this time?

After all, here's a new Iranian President who was elected with nearly 70 percent of the vote on a platform of strengthening the rule of law and individual freedoms.

Softer Tones

In calling for a "thoughtful dialogue" with the United States, Mr. Khatami expressed respect for the American people — and their choice of government. Although he repeated Iran's opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process, he did not recite Iran's usual litany of preconditions for a dialogue with Washington, including the unfreezing of Iranian assets held in the United States.

Mr. Clinton responded warmly, saying he would



The U.S. and Iran are talking about talking. There was no hint of dialogue last month in Teheran.

"like nothing better" than to talk to Iran and praised the contributions of Persian civilization and culture. While he ticked off longstanding American concerns about Iran's support for terrorism and its military ambitions, he avoided calling Iran a "rogue state."

Mr. Clinton's words bespeak a belief that it is in America's interest to open a dialogue, even though Iran has been the Bermuda Triangle of American foreign policy ever since the ayatollahs occupied the palaces of kings nearly 19 years ago. The current policy of isolating Iran and Iraq as if they are equal threats is seen by more and more people in and out of the Government as

misguided.

"Our policy of dual containment to isolate two countries has been a smashing success," said Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security adviser under President Jimmy Carter. "The only problem is that the two countries are the United States and Israel."

Opening a dialogue with the United States would also be in Iran's interest — most immediately in its campaign to overturn American sanctions that have curbed foreign investment in Iran's oil and gas industry and could exclude Iran from becoming a pipeline route for oil and gas from the Caspian Sea.

But as the impostor's call to Mr. Bush illustrates, when it comes to the United States and Iran, reaching out and touching someone can result in electrocution.

In November 1979, for example, the Iranian Prime Minister, Mehdi Bazargan, and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi sat down with Mr. Brzezinski in Algiers. Three days later, the American Embassy in Teheran was seized and the captors accused the two Iranian officials of "sitting around the table with the American wolf." Both men were forced to resign.

During the 15-month hostage crisis, President Carter sent a parade of potential negotiators, including his chief of staff dressed in disguise, three French lawyers, an Argentine businessman, an Egyptian journalist and a former Attorney General to get the Americans freed. Even the Pope sent Iran a plea for help. All the intermediaries were humiliated.

Treacherous Waters

In 1986, President Reagan sent his national security adviser, Robert C. McFarlane, on a secret mission to Iran bearing gifts: a key-shaped chocolate cake from a kosher bakery in Tel Aviv and a Bible which Mr. Reagan had inscribed with a New Testament passage. When the arms-for-hostages deal turned sour, President Rafsanjani ridiculed Mr. Reagan for his naivete.

Even now, the Clinton Administration is so determined to avoid looking soft that it has not launched a formal policy review of Iran since Mr. Khatami's election in May. Intelligence agencies have not conducted a full-scale analysis of Iran for a year. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is trying hard to stay away from the subject.

And Iran remains a dangerously unpredictable place. Since Mr. Khatami's risky overture and Mr. Clinton's response, Iran's three main right-wing newspapers have published commentaries asking what all the fuss was about and dismissing the Iranian President's comments as nothing more than restatements of old policy.

On the same day that Mr. Khatami made his remarks, Mr. Yazdi, who has led a movement promoting democracy in Iran since his ouster as Foreign Minister, was imprisoned for the first time, with no charges filed. And there is always the chance that a group financed and armed by Iran could mount an attack against an American installation or American citizens.

No wonder that when Mr. Khatami talked about dialogue, he proposed it with "the great American people," a vague formulation that gives him political cover as he struggles to consolidate his power. Given his limited room to maneuver at home, Mr. Khatami could explain away his risky proposal as just another salvo in the propaganda war he has waged to present Iran as a powerful nation-state and the United States as an isolated giant out of step with the rest of the world.

So any dialogue invites danger — for both sides. Building enough trust to even talk about some of the difficult issues that divide the countries would take a long time. And opening a dialogue with Iran would not come with an airtight guarantee for the United States that the right person is listening and that the wrong people are not also on the line.

Still, the Americans and Iranians already talk to each other, albeit in international settings and in messages transmitted through designated third governments. For well over a year, American officials, including Karl Inderfurth, the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, and his predecessor, Robin Raphel, have met at the United Nations with Afghan groups — with Iranian officials at the table — to discuss ending the civil war in Afghanistan.

Iranian officials still complain that their country was never rewarded for its neutrality in the 1981 gulf war against its menacing neighbor, Iraq. So as a start, what's to stop Mr. Clinton and Mr. Khatami from sending envoys to a neutral corner like Geneva to discuss a matter that confounds both countries: the political endurance of Saddam Hussein?

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "لا شيء يثبت"

The World Black, White and Poles Apart

By SUZANNE DALEY

AS President Nelson Mandela lashed out at whites last week, saying they had come to believe that in exchange for giving up political power they could keep their positions of economic privilege, many blacks in South Africa applauded. Finally, their beloved President had told it the way it was. He had expressed an anger that has been building steadily here in the three and half years since this country held the first elections in which everyone was given the right to vote.

The problem is that the vote has not transformed the day-to-day life of most black South Africans. They are still surviving on corn meal dinners. Their tin shacks still rattle in the rain. Jobs are still impossible to find.

That there should be anger is not so surprising. And that this anger might be directed at whites, who own most of the land and run most of the businesses, isn't that surprising either.

But black anger is not the only anger out there. Many whites are getting fed up too, even the most liberal ones who helped abolish the system. In the heady early days, blacks and whites embraced each other over rugby and soccer victories, but these days suspicion and resentment often prevail.

Last month, when Sampie Terreblanche, a well-known Afrikaner academic here, publicly proposed that whites should pay a wealth tax to finance reparations for blacks hurt by apartheid, the outcry from whites was deafening, he said, and included a mountain of hate mail.

He believes his proposal would have been accepted just three years ago. "Whites were more humble then," he said. "They were prepared to take some knocks."

Two-Way Street

Mr. Terreblanche is hardly alone in believing that South Africa is becoming more polarized.

More and more South Africans are acknowledging that the hopeful notion of a "rainbow nation," and the harmony it suggests, may be even more elusive than the great American melting pot. Blacks and whites now see things very differently and they are hardening in their positions.

Writing in The Sunday Independent last week, Shaun Johnson, a political correspondent turned newspaper executive, said that blacks believe whites have failed abjectly in seeing reconciliation as a two-way street. Now that apartheid is gone, he wrote, all that whites want to do is get on with their lives.

"This is taken to be shockingly ungrateful, unrepentant, arrogant and — the warning note is shrill — unacceptable behavior," said Mr. Johnson, who is white.

On the other hand, he said, whites don't know what blacks are talking about.

"Whites feel that far from lagging behind, 'transformation' in the country has run rampant, that they have borne the brunt of it, will continue to do so," he said, "and are being offered no honorable long-term place in society."

Separate and Disparate

Though whites and blacks share the same country, most still live in separate, if not disparate, worlds. And their experiences over the last few years have shaped what are perhaps irreconcilable outlooks.

Whites, who are 12 percent of the population, have lost any sense of political power.

The African National Congress, with 252 of the 400 seats in Parliament, is the biggest party in the country. It really doesn't need the cooperation of any other party to pass legislation unless it wants to change the Constitution, which requires a 75 percent majority. And, while the A.N.C. has lost support in recent polls, most of its disaffected voters are really in the undecided category and may well return to the party as the 1999 elections near.

There is also crime.

For the first time whites are finding violence on their doorsteps as the barriers that kept the poor locked in black townships come down. Crime has always been a part of life in the townships, where the police were really only a riot control force and spy network. Besides, just before the 1994 elections, the townships were at war as the A.N.C. fought it out with Inkatha, the second-largest black party, led by the Zulu Prince Mangosuthu Buthezi. So violence and mindless brutality has been a given for blacks, but its presence radically changes the way whites feel about their homeland.

Then there is the economy. It grew only about 2 percent this year and produced no new jobs. This means that for blacks to get jobs, whites have to lose theirs. Various

surveys indicate that whites are beginning to lose their wealth. Slightly fewer of them are in the middle class than before; their pay increases have also not kept up with inflation, which is at 8 percent. Though a black elite has developed, their wealth has not yet trickled down to the masses. So poor blacks feel they are getting nothing while whites feel they are losing ground.

White Pessimism

One survey published last summer found that pessimism is four times higher among whites than blacks. Almost half of South Africa's whites expected to be worse off in a year.

But some political analysts say the A.N.C. is exaggerating racial polarization.

Steve Friedman, who heads the Center for Policy Studies, says Mr. Mandela's speech, given at the A.N.C.'s national party conference, was pure party politics — an effort to unite the membership behind a common goal, in the same way that the former National Party used to rail against the threat of Communism.

Mr. Mandela did not ask whites to do anything, Mr. Friedman points out, except for a vague request to stop criticizing affirmative action programs.

Mr. Friedman says he has researched the speeches of the more outspoken Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, looking for any directions to whites and has found virtually none. Mr. Mbeki is Mr. Mandela's likely successor at the A.N.C. as well as in the presidency.

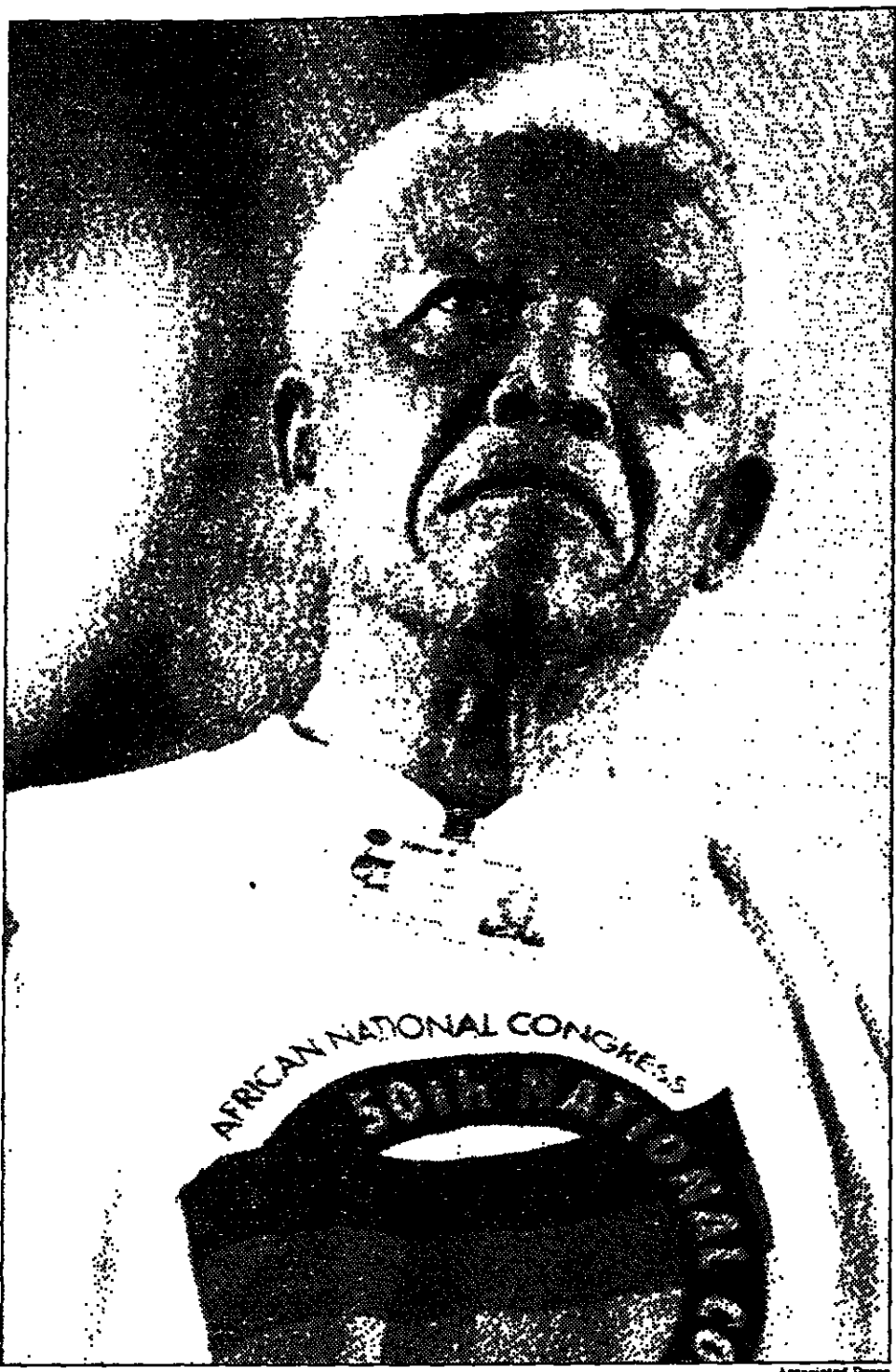
"He is specific," said Mr. Friedman, "only on affirmative action — it is a good idea — and on, 'We don't like to be criticized.'"

But with more than 350 international news organizations signed up to cover the speech, Mr. Mandela must have known his audience was far wider than the 3,000 party delegates who gathered in the remote northern town of Mafikeng.

Since then, both Mr. Mandela and Mr. Mbeki have sought to play down the anti-white remarks, but most newspapers with largely white audiences have taken Mr. Mandela — who enjoys enormous support among whites — to task on their editorial pages for being vituperative and for failing to give an uplifting speech.

Some South Africans see progress, however, in these hostilities being brought out in the open.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the chairman



President Nelson Mandela at a meeting of the African National Congress.

of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who won the Nobel Peace prize for his efforts against apartheid, said recently that it was time to be more honest in recognizing differences in perspective between the races.

He surmised up the mood of the country by saying that blacks resent the failure of

whites to realize how lucky they are while whites resent the burden of guilt they carry for benefiting from the racial system.

"And so we sit in our little corners feeling angrier and angrier," he said. "But I still think we have a great deal going for us. If we could have the courage maybe to be a little more honest."

Voters and Investors

Asian Democracy Has Two Masters

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

KIM DAE JUNG spoke to his nation on Friday after being elected President, and one of the first things he said was that he would make them suffer. "Reform without pain is impossible," he admonished.

It was an odd way of expressing gratitude, particularly for this longtime populist dissident, who is now talking over a Government that in the 1970's and 1980's repeatedly plotted to assassinate him. But Mr. Kim was not really speaking to his people. He was speaking to foreign investors and bankers, and trying to reassure them that he is prepared to take tough measures to restructure the South Korean economy.

Mr. Kim's problem, and that of other leaders in the financially troubled countries of Asia, is that they now have two often conflicting constituencies. The first is voters, who when angered send a leader from office. The second is foreign bankers and investors, who when alarmed send currencies and stock markets into the tank.

The conflicts between these two constituencies are creating profound risks of social and political unrest throughout the region. Appeasing bankers might trigger unrest among the populace, or vice versa. Yet these two constituencies, domestic citizens and overseas investors, also interact in hopeful ways that can impose greater responsibility on governments. And this sense of discipline, shored up by the nearly instantaneous reward or punishment of the markets, is arguably a good thing.

Malaysia's Malaise

Consider what has happened in Malaysia to its stock market and currency, the ringgit.

"We are Muslims, and the Jews are not happy to see the Muslims progress," Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was quoted as saying this fall. "The Jews robbed the Palestinians of everything, but in Malaysia they could not do so, hence they do this, depress the ringgit."

A decade ago, blaming a foreign scapegoat in this way before a domestic audience might have worked. But the world today is much more economically integrated and far more wired, so that New Yorkers can find out instantly what Dr. Mahathir says in some small Malaysian town (he suggests that he was misquoted).

The upshot in Malaysia's case was that investors promptly added to Dr. Mahathir's problems by sending the ringgit even lower, concluding that he was more interested in pointing fingers than reforming his economy. Now it seems that every time Dr. Mahathir opens his mouth the markets drop. Thus many Malaysians now seem to prefer that the Prime Minister just shut up, even if they sympathize with his views. Scapegoating is not rewarded politically as



A bank employee in Seoul sorts through foreign coins brought in by South Koreans to shore up the battered national currency.

it once was; instead, it is visibly punished.

Even in the old days, of course, there were rewards and penalties for economic behavior. A decade ago, critical comments by Dr. Mahathir about Jews, or by a Korean leader about foreign investors, would have chilled the investment environment, and over a number of years foreign companies would have invested less capital. Today there is no lag. Traders see a leader's comments on their Bloomberg screen and dump stocks or currencies immediately — or buy immediately if a leader does something economically virtuous.

"In the past, when national economies were more compartmentalized, you could have had macroeconomic policy and dole out all the goodies and leave the problems for your successor," said You Jong Keun, the Governor of North Cholla Province in South Korea. "Now we can't do that."

Mr. You, a former Rutgers University economics professor who is an economic adviser to Kim Dae Jung, argues that globalization and the rapid responses of markets also make it easier to educate citizens about the importance of sound economic policies. Mr. You offers his own experience

to back that up.

The Cholla region where Mr. You is Governor is one of the poorest and most nationalistic parts of the country, and he initially encountered deep suspicions when he proposed attracting foreign investment. "Are you going to let foreigners buy our land?" citizens asked him.

"Yes, because even if they buy it, they aren't going to take it anywhere," Mr. You says he responded. "It's going to stay right here on this peninsula." Backed by a team of American-educated assistants, Mr. You has made North Cholla a national economic model, and it is enjoying a boom even as the rest of the country stagnates.

Changing Minds

Indeed, during an interview in his hotel room in Seoul, Mr. You excused himself to take a phone call from a possible American investor, a Mr. Jackson. That turned out to be Michael Jackson, the singer, who is considering building a resort in North Cholla. "I persuaded people in my province that we shouldn't be afraid of accepting foreign investment," Mr. You said.

The changing mood in South Korea over the last few weeks tends to buttress Mr. You's point that ordinary people can now see the rewards and punishments of the markets. When the International Monetary Fund bailout for South Korea was first announced early this month, there was anger at America and Japan for supposedly practicing economic colonialism.

Kim Dae Jung exploited that by calling for renegotiation of the I.M.F. agreement, and this initially won him a wave of support. But overseas investors, worried that Mr. Kim would repudiate the I.M.F. deal, sold Korean currency and stocks. The tumbling markets worried ordinary citizens and caused the beginning of a backlash against Mr. Kim.

The result: Mr. Kim had to back off hurriedly, saying he had been misunderstood. That explains why the first thing he told voters upon being elected was that he was going to make them suffer. South Koreans accepted Mr. Kim's pledge of pain ahead, for they understood the need to placate the markets. And so, reassuringly, at least for this fragile moment, the two constituencies are in synch.

Creation, All Over

Continued From Page 9

evolutionists," who include many religious leaders, that their straddling is untenable. Many believers find no contradiction between the idea of a creator and evolution. For them, it is not an either-or proposition.

The biology teachers changed their statement, said Wayne Carley, the association's executive director, "to avoid taking a religious position" that could offend believers. But he said the group firmly believed "there is no evidence of any creator having a hand in the origin of any species." For years, the teachers resisted demands to amend the statement. But Mr. Carley said they decided in October to change the platform after a well-reasoned request in a letter from two distinguished scholars: Huston Smith, professor emeritus of religion at Berkeley, and Alvin Plantinga, a philosopher of religion at the University of Notre Dame.

Another ally of Mr. Johnson is Michael Behe, a biochemist at Lehigh University who contends that the molecular machinery of cells is so complex and interdependent that this is proof of purposeful design. Mr. Behe's book, "Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution," was chosen as 1997 Book of the Year by the evangelical monthly Christianity Today.

Entering the fray with a recent article in Commentary is David Berlinski, a philosopher, who asserts that after more than 140 years the Darwinists have failed to prove their case because major transitions are "missing from the fossil record."

These new creationists avoid one pitfall of their predecessors by not positing, at least publicly, the identity of the creator. "My decision is simply to put it off," Mr. Johnson said, "and I recommend that to others."

Mainstream Fire

This triumvirate has been duly picked apart by mainstream scientists. Kenneth Miller, a biologist at Brown University, argued in the "Firing Line" debate that "the intelligent designer" was "incompetent, because everything the intelligent designer designed, with about one percent exceptions, has immediately become extinct."

Mr. Miller also skewered Mr. Behe's book in a recent review. But that the book was even reviewed is progress in Mr. Johnson's view: "This issue is getting into the mainstream. People realize they can deal with it the way they deal with other intellectual issues like whether socialism is a good thing. My goal is not so much to win the argument as to legitimate it as part of the dialogue."

The danger in the new creationism, says Eugenie C. Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education in El Cerrito, Calif., is that "there are a lot of students going to be leaving college thinking evolution is in crisis." With fewer and fewer high school teachers daring to teach evolution these days, Ms. Scott said, the scientists of the next generation "are in bad shape."

The Nation

The Shots Heard 'Round the World

By ESTHER B. FEIN

IT'S time for that annual rite, your child's yearly checkup. After the weighing, the measuring and the twisting of joints, the underwear-clad child pops the dreaded question: Am I getting a shot? Well, you mumble, just your annual anthrax booster.

Anthrax?
The inoculation for one of the deadliest biological agents known to man is not yet on the list of vaccinations — like measles, tetanus and polio — that are routinely given to children in this country. But last week, the Pentagon announced that it planned to start inoculating the entire military against the potential use of anthrax as a biological warfare agent.

So a question arises: If 1.4 million troops

A vaccine against anthrax as a medical version of Star Wars.

on active duty and 1 million reservists will be protected against anthrax, shouldn't the nation also gird against its potential use in a military or terrorist attack?

After all, this is a country where some people buy life insurance policies for their pets, where more than a few have escape hatches built into their otherwise ordinary homes, and where many have begun buying large sport utility vehicles not for their cargo space or towing capacity but to protect themselves against other behemoths on the road.

So why not anthrax-proof everyone in a biological version of the Star Wars defense? Why not give everyone the medical equiva-

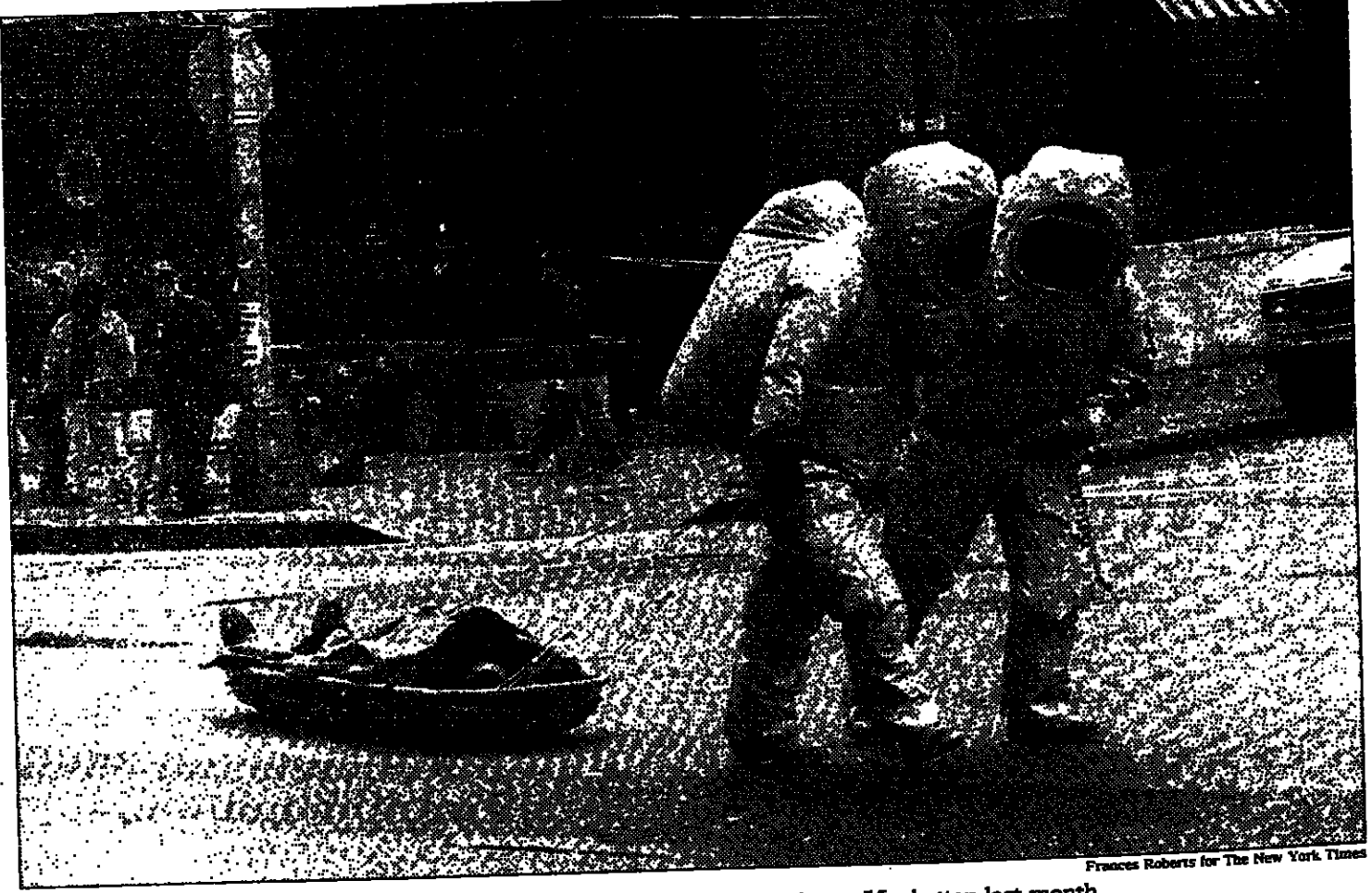
lent of a Humvee against germ warfare? Because this is one of those cases where the mere fact of having the capacity to do something doesn't necessarily seem to justify doing it, where the roughly \$13 billion it would take to immunize everyone in the country could be spent on more pressing health initiatives.

Doesn't Travel Well

"Although anthrax is very hardy as a potential source of infection, it would be difficult to transport large quantities of it to this country for the sake of a terrorist attack," said Dr. June E. Osborn, an immunization expert who has been a consultant to the military and is now president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, a New York City-based philanthropy. "Anthrax is also too slow-acting to have the kind of bang impact that a terrorist is after. For that, a chemical or nerve-gas poisoning is far more likely."

Still, American troops deployed abroad provide a much easier target, and the consensus among scientists and policy makers is that the anthrax vaccine program is not some Star Wars response to a new, fashionable threat. They are convinced that the Pentagon wouldn't be adding this vaccine to its immunization repertoire without strong evidence that several countries have significant quantities of warfare-strength anthrax, which in its natural state afflicts cattle and sheep but can spread to humans. It is considered a low-risk move given the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, which has been used by the military since 1964 for certain personnel and by some civilians, like farmers, tanners and wool-handlers, with only mild, flu-like side effects.

Members of the American armed forces are already inoculated against illnesses that are not considered a threat to the general population. Virtually all recruits, for example, get vaccines for adenovirus, which can cause conjunctivitis and respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases when people from across the country are brought together in



Emergency workers practice a rescue during a mock poison gas attack in lower Manhattan last month.

close barracks under stressful conditions. Troops in "high risk occupational groups" are inoculated against rabies and the plague, among other diseases. Until the late 1980's, all military personnel were given the smallpox vaccine, even though inoculation of civilians ended in the mid-1960's.

The Smallpox Threat

The bigger concern for many is the array of virulent biological warfare threats for which there are no vaccines, or those genetically engineered to resist existing vaccines. Dr. Frank J. Malinoski said he worried most about smallpox in germ warfare. Dr. Malinoski was a member of the trilateral commission comprising British, American and Soviet scientists who inspected biowarfare sites in Russia in 1991 and he was in the first team to inspect Iraqi sites for bioweapons.

During the trip to Russia, he said, his team uncovered good evidence that smallpox virus that was supposed to be under seal in a

Moscow vault had been moved to a laboratory in Novosibirsk and that scientists were probably manipulating it to create potential agents for warfare. "If a country like that can't control all its nuclear weapons," said Dr. Malinoski, now the senior vice president for medical and clinical affairs at Nabi, a biotechnology company, "they certainly can't control a few vials of smallpox."

Richard Preston, the author of "The Cobra Event," a novel about germ warfare, and "The Hot Zone," a nonfiction book about an outbreak of Ebola virus among monkeys in a Virginia laboratory, praised the decision to immunize troops against anthrax. But he cautioned that "no one should have any illusion that this is going to be anything more than a Band-aid" against germ warfare, given some nations' efforts to develop genetically altered, vaccine-resistant bioweapons.

Some experts worry that even in developing defensive responses to biological warfare, the United States is contributing to the escalation of the germ arms race. "Part of

the problem with biological warfare is that it's very hard to distinguish between what one does offensively and defensively," said Dr. Anthony Robbins, a past president of the American Health Association. "If you build vaccines to counter these germs, you develop the single most important component of a potential weapon."

Ills of the Rich

Beyond that, there is concern among many scientists that too much research is focused on developing treatments for conditions that are prevalent in the industrialized countries with the resources to pay, and not enough for preventing the diseases that ravage developing nations, where vaccines would have a greater effect on more lives.

But research on preventive measures will be slighted, said Tim Westmoreland, a senior policy fellow at the Georgetown University Law Center, "if it doesn't happen in a marketplace that will pay."

A One-Track Mind In the Race Debate

Continued From Page 9

not end it. Last year, California voters approved a ballot initiative to ban preferences based on race or sex in state hiring, contracting or admissions to public colleges and universities. The President's race relations advisory board drew sharp criticism last month for not seeking out the views of affirmative action opponents — an accusation that Mr. Clinton tried conspicuously to deflect with his Oval Office meeting Friday.

One Last Issue

It is in part by default that affirmative action dominates the nation's discussion of race relations. Many other flash points are receding, for better or for worse. Crime rates, especially violent street crime rates associated in much of the public's mind with minority groups, are falling. Welfare rolls are dropping. The robust economy is reducing poverty rates, and the high school graduation rate among blacks is rising. "This seems to be the tangible issue that people feel they can directly address," said Jonathan Coleman, the author of "Long Way to Go," a study of race relations in Milwaukee. "There are a lot of complaints from people trying to get their arms around race relations in the 90's about what are the issues. Well, this is the issue."

Some say it is an easy issue for politicians and the news media to focus on. It lends itself to sound bites and expressions of high moral principle like fairness, equality, color-blindness and inclusiveness. It avoids vexing questions like what to do about the failure of minority schools, the growing class divide within minority groups and the stereotypes that keep Americans apart. At the recent town meeting on race he held in Akron, Ohio, Mr. Clinton spent considerable time on affirmative action, but barely probed beneath the surface of an observation by a young white man that if he spots a poorly dressed black man on the street he becomes "a little bit scared."

"Perceptions are part of the gray areas," said Mr. Coleman. "That's where people need to be going, into those gray areas. And that's where people are most afraid. So it's easy to line up behind polarized positions. It requires less courage."

Also, it seems, less candor. Proponents of preferences often shy away from using the word, arguing that any African American or Hispanic person or any woman, whether the child of a doctor or a derelict, has been so disadvantaged by racism and sexism that extending a break only evens the score. Some opponents say they have no problems with heightened recruitment and outreach efforts, but when pressed say such special efforts should not be based on race or sex.

"We've got to talk about these things in concrete and specific ways," said Lani Guinier, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania. "You can't talk in the abstract. It's as if we're pledging allegiance to a set of abstract principles and fighting over which of these abstract principles everyone should follow."

Whatever the reason, the attention given affirmative action is sometimes lamented even by those who help thrust it onto center stage. "It's not the only issue," said Abigail Thernstrom, the co-author of the newly published "America in Black and White" and an affirmative action opponent who participated in the White

Some other racial flash points have been receding recently. One big one remains.

House meeting Friday. "It's the issue on which people are not going to change their minds. There aren't a lot of fence-sitters on this question."

At his news conference last week, Mr. Clinton also expressed a weariness with the subject, wishing the debate would move beyond the "I'm-for-it-and-you're-against-it" stage to bow the country insure the continued advancement of minority groups either with or without affirmative action. "That debate, I would suggest to you, is in its infancy," he added.

Hostile Environment

Nevertheless, the country seems to be at an edgy stalemate on the issue. Public opinion remains hostile to the idea of granting breaks on the basis of race or sex. The Federal courts have eliminated or sharply curbed race-conscious programs to help members of minority groups in contracting, employment and college admissions and financial aid. Yet the courts decline to drop the other shoe and say such programs are always unconstitutional. Republican opponents in Congress may block the nomination of an affirmative action advocate like Mr. Lee, but balk at legislation that would do away with Federal affirmative action programs.

With the country unable to press forward on affirmative action and unwilling to go back, only one thing can be assured: everyone will be talking about it next year, when Mr. Clinton has promised to resubmit Mr. Lee's name to Congress for confirmation, and probably for much longer.

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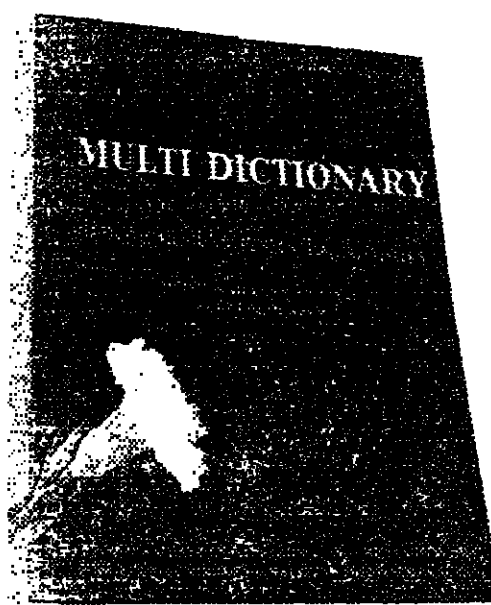
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ECONOMY

On Long Island, a Mall Serves as History Lesson

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

THE mall is like a member of your family: Like it or hate it, chances are you have to visit at least a few times a year — especially at the holidays — and you're probably too close to realize how much it has changed over time.

Of course, some of the change is obvious at a mall like Long Island's Roosevelt Field, at 2.3 million square feet the nation's seventh-largest mall, where a \$150 million renovation in 1993 turned what was an everyday shopping center into a huge regional mall with dozens of new stores and a giant food court in the shape of a zeppelin. More than two million shoppers visit suburban New York mall in an average month — closer to three million in November and December.

But it is the subtler changes at Roosevelt Field — the ones reflecting the demographic, financial and cultural swings of the country — that best tell the story of retailing in America in the 40-odd years during which malls have come to dominate shopping.

Over the decades, Roosevelt Field's tenant lists and floor plans make clear that this mall, like malls in so many American towns, has been a sort of commercial petri dish for the suburban experience.

Here is the rise and fall — and rise — of the suburban department store. The disappearance of the local merchant in the face of relentless expansion by a relative handful of national retailers. The supplanting of the homemaker by the working woman as the mall's prime market. The breakdown of class distinctions in American tastes.

The scene is so familiar to holiday shoppers who will throng malls today, the end of the busiest weekend of the year: Dozens of stores with marked-down wool sweaters shoved to the front racks. Stroller brigades of droopy-eyed toddlers. Dazed men and women weighted down with department store bags. A maddening, casino-like absence of clocks.

But it sprang from something far more modest.

Since Roosevelt Field opened in 1956 on the site of a Garden City airstrip that served as Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh's launch pad in the 1920's, one constant has been Macy's. That underscores an essential, if at times severely tested, truth: The department store rules the mall.

From the beginning of the mall-building boom of the late 1950's, department stores set the tone and ran the show. Like Macy's at Roosevelt Field, stores that committed to anchor malls got space from the developers — in this case William Zeckendorf — for nominal fees.

The specialty stores, many of them local businesses that migrated from the town village, paid stiffer rents and prayed for walk-by business from department-store customers relieved at being spared shopping trips back to the city neighborhoods they had fled.

"The developers knew the department-store guys and did deals with them," said Henry D. Jackson, managing director of the Peter J. Solomon Company, an investment bank that specializes in the retail industry. "And the specialty stores were willing to pay high rent because they didn't need to pay advertising."

Specialty stores were hardly the draw they are now. There was no Bath & Body Works with its fruit-scented soaps, no jam-packed housewares stores like Pottery Barn bringing their pastel visions of home decorating to the suburbs.

Most of Roosevelt Field's original tenants — shops like Hanan's Yarn and Paré Millinery, which were geared to the homemaker with children — have closed and been forgotten.

If some of the old retailing concepts seem quaint — like the Corsetorium, which sold women's undergarments — they hint at the needs met by today's retailers, like the mall's 8,000-square-foot Victoria's Secret store.

The first big change in the mall landscape was also one of the most profound: the enclosing of large numbers of outdoor centers beginning in the 1960's, a trend that reached Roosevelt Field in 1968. Not only did roofs raise the year-round shopping possibilities many times over, but they changed the economics of building a mall.

"The costs were tremendous," noted Leonard L. Farber, the founding president of the International Council of Shopping Centers and a long-time mall developer. With the number of shoppers skyrocketing, "if you wanted to build a 1,000-square-foot store, you needed 5,000 square feet of parking to go with it."

There was nothing terribly fancy about Roosevelt Field in those years. With stores like Sears, Woolworth and Walgreen's — all tenants at Roosevelt Field in 1963 — the mall catered to middle-class shoppers and their values.

"If you think about the customer in the 1960's, most of the people going to suburbs are young families in starter homes, and that defined what stores went out there," said Mary Ellen Brigham, a professor of marketing at the University of Connecticut. "Sears grew on that whole premise. By the 1960's, it had 800 stores, which was huge."

Carriage-trade merchants disdained malls, sticking to their downtown redoubts. "Neiman Marcus, Lord & Taylor and Bonwit Teller held back," Mr. Farber said. "If you were real fancy and accustomed to very high-class merchandise, you wanted to still go to Fifth Avenue."

But fewer and fewer Long Islanders wanted to make the trip. "Roosevelt Field exemplified that transition from city-oriented Long Island to a locally centered life style," said Roger Wunderlich, a professor of Long Island history at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"There was this new interconnected network of places to shop, and campus-like office complexes, industrial parks, schools and hospitals all accessible by parkway," he said. "It was the beginning of post-suburban Long Island, where people not only live but work."

The Middle Years: Courting Teens

After surviving the bankruptcy of Mr. Zeckendorf's company, Webb & Knapp Inc., and falling into new hands, Roosevelt Field, like many other malls by the 1970's, had become an unavoidable fixture of the retailing landscape for merchants and shoppers. (There were 983 regional malls in 1976 — hundreds more than in the 1960's but still less than half the number today.) Malls had emerged as the new village green, imprinting themselves on the minds of children with fashion shows and concerts and Santa Claus castles that a decade before would have been held at the local Y or the high



Macy's has been a mainstay of Long Island's Roosevelt Field mall since its opening in 1956. Shoppers gathered outside the store recently.

school auditorium.

But the dynamics of the mall were changing. An entrepreneur in Ohio named Leslie H. Wexner began to challenge conventional wisdom about both the mall shopper and the omnipotence of the department store. In the inflationary 70's, he saw a way to insure that malls thrived as working adults felt financially squeezed: by appealing to teen-agers who would be big-spending customers when times improved.

Mr. Wexner's little shops, known as the Limited, were geared to young women, and at first opened in just a few malls. The Limited made it to Roosevelt Field in 1979. Other stores catering to younger working women started popping up in malls around the country: Casual Corner, Foxmoor, Jean Nicole and others each had dozens of mall outlets by the end of the decade. By then, too, some specialty stores had their own credit cards, which with their easy terms gave many young shoppers their first plastic.

"The Limited was the wake-up call," said Mr. Jackson, the investment banker. "In the early 1970's, there was a real generation gap, and the Limited was saying to that younger customer, 'We understand what you want and we will focus on you.' Wexner gets all the credit for that change at the mall."

Nothing drove changes at the mall as much as the changing life style of the American woman. By 1979 at Roosevelt Field, the Singer Sewing Center and stores like the Fabric Tree had been joined not only by Foxmoor, Casual Corner and Jean Nicole, but also by Lerner Shops and Te-Te La Pitus, all catering to the working woman. In Nassau County, her numbers had grown by 45 percent over the decade.

The 1980's started as the heyday of the mall — and ended in disaster. As Mr. Wexner plotted the rise of the specialty store, Robert Campeau, an eccentric Canadian developer who headed the Campeau Corporation, was making a series of moves that wrecked the department store, at least temporarily.

Outfitted with junk bonds, the decade's most fashionable financial accessory, Mr. Campeau went on a buying spree. He acquired department-store chains through leveraged buyouts, dismissed workers, sliced costs and then stood by, paralyzed by \$8 billion in debt, as chains like Bonwit Teller, Bloomingdale's and Burdines tumbled toward bankruptcy. The house of cards finally collapsed in bankruptcy in 1990.

Other merchants moved quickly to capitalize on the vulnerabilities that Mr. Campeau put in such high relief. Specialty stores scooped up shoppers who abandoned department stores that were left threadbare, thinly staffed and all but service-free in Mr. Campeau's wake.

"In the late 80's, department stores were less predictable on the cash-flow side and were no longer bringing in the customer," recalled Therese Byrne, publisher of Retail Maxin, a newsletter that focuses on real estate issues in the retail business. "Stores like the Limited said, 'Hey, I'm the new anchor; start giving me some concessions.'"

A Limited executive recalled how malls began offering incentives to

specialty retailers: big rent abatements or heavy infusions of cash for store improvements. The Limited began to spread its brands across the mall, buying or opening such chains as Express, Lane Bryant and Victoria's Secret.

At Roosevelt Field, where sales remained strong, specialty tenants had fewer opportunities to snare juicy deals. "In times of economic weakness, retailers got very picky about locations and would demand allowances," said Martin Fell, senior vice president of Corporate Property Investors, the New York real estate investment trust that has owned the mall since 1973. "Roosevelt Field has always been a strong center, so generally we have only paid allowances to tenants who were high quality and who we particularly wanted in the mall."

Outside the mall, "category killers" — stores like PetSmart and Bed, Bath & Beyond that specialize in a single category of merchandise — began to populate shopping centers in Roosevelt Field's backyard and in strip malls around the country. Here, shoppers found low prices and broad choice, without the headaches of weaving through the mall. Mail-order shopping, once the recourse of rural shoppers, began to be a mainstay of harried suburbanites, too.

So by 1990, when the recession hit — nowhere as deeply and tenaciously as on Long Island — and women reduced their spending on clothes, the Limited found itself in the same position as the department stores just a few years earlier — dated and floundering.

Into the 90's: The Lure of Luxury

The retailing changes and economic pain left their mark on Roosevelt Field.

Alexander's was gone, and so was Gimbel's. Many of the young women's shops, like Foxmoor and Here and Now, had lasted barely 20 years. Others, like Jean Nicole and Merry-Go-Round, would disappear soon, victims of over expansion, quality problems and their failure to stock appropriate clothing for the junior shopper who had matured.

Embattled and searching for ways to grow, some malls turned to multi-screen movie theaters, in keeping with a big theme of retailing in the 1990's: the merger of shopping and entertainment. But another group, including Roosevelt Field, seized another trend: the lure of luxurious, high-style goods for even the moderately affluent shopper.

In came Nordstrom, the Coach Store, Tourneau and the Disney Store. Out went stores like Woolworth, which, if they no longer served the mall's target market, were sorely missed by longtime customers.

"You had your needle and thread, your shoelaces and pencils and stockings, too, there. Where do you go for that now?" said Helen Boroski, 77, who has traveled from her home in Glen Head, N.Y., to Roosevelt Field for 30 years and sat in its food court munching pizza on a recent afternoon.

The aesthetic changed considerably from the 1970's, reinforcing the

mall's new glamour. Roosevelt Field tore down "La Petite Mall," a Tudor-style expansion built in 1974 that had architecturally reinforced the novelty of shopping indoors. The 1993 renovation brought a common area that simulates an open-air market, with high ceilings, skylights, imported marble tiling and modern metal fixtures.

For anyone who grew up shopping in malls, there is a strange link between the past and present at Roosevelt Field. There is still Spencer Gifts, that draw for every pre-teenager with its forbidden aisles of dirty gag jokes, and Things Remembered, the outpost for all things engraved.

Bustling with business just down the linoleum road are stores that play to shoppers' desire to experience everything before they buy it. At M.A.C. Cosmetics, women combine trendiness with anti-bacterial caution, dipping lipsticks into alcohol before trying them. At Williams-Sonoma, the sales clerks warm cider and help a gaggle of shoppers pick out cooking supplies. At Nordic Track, baby boomers work up a sweat on the exercise equipment before buying themselves back into a size 6 or a 32-inch waist.

"You can't just put your merchandise on a shelf anymore," said John Konarski, vice president of the International Council of Shopping Centers in Manhattan. "You have to be able to smell it, touch it and feel it."

A new crop of stores for young women underscores how fast retail cycles are moving. Their defunct predecessors had depended on Asian manufacturing, which often meant it took too long to get clothes into the stores; by the time they arrived, the garments had already fallen out of fashion — a death knell when you are selling to fickle teen-agers.

Instead, chains that survived the 80's triage or opened more recently at Roosevelt Field — like Wet Seal, Contempo Casuals and Rampage — buy or make most of their clothes domestically, quickly moving inventory to keep the shelves fresh.

"The fallout of the other juniors chains has led to new chains which are focusing on very short lead times," said Allan Laufgraben, the former chief executive of Petrie Stores, which owned Jean Nicole, Marianne and Stuarts. "They have eliminated most of the import market."

Today, men and women shop side by side in popular specialty stores like the Gap, Abercrombie & Fitch and J. Crew. These stores market a life style, rather than catering to a thin market segment.

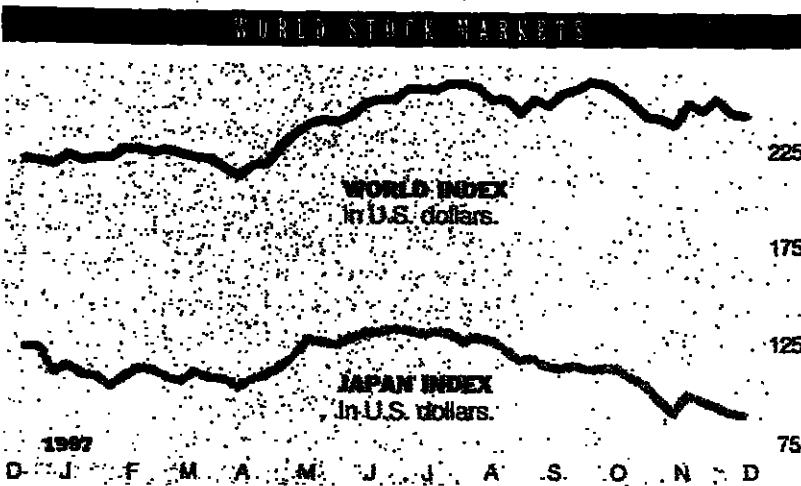
The shopper now moves easily through all these stores. The "Limited shopper" will peek in department stores for their perpetual sales; the "Neiman Marcus shopper" will happily go to Kmart rather than to a fancy garden store for some potting soil.

Indeed, the department store, with its own improved private-label merchandise, depth of brands like Tommy Hilfiter and Jones New York and constant sales, has enjoyed a rebirth unimaginable after Mr. Campeau scorched their earth.

Mall owners, faced with the unrelenting reality that shoppers have dozens of options outside the mall, are always looking for new lures — and new ways to get productivity out of every corner of their spaces. At Roosevelt Field, for example, a dozen leased kiosks with names like Glass Sculpturing, Magic Pens and Running Out of Time crowd the aisles.

Still, in retailing's Darwinist ways, sprawling malls like Roosevelt Field — with their varied tenants, affluent shoppers and rich owners — can get away with low productivity in pockets of their cavernous halls. But nearing the end of the 90's, smaller, less high-end malls are having to go back to their roots of 40 years ago.

"I think what is going to happen is that upscale malls like Roosevelt Field will continue," said Ms. Byrne, the newsletter publisher. "The secondary malls are going to have to find another way to integrate into the community. Either they will offer medical services for the elderly or add post offices or whatever. They have to go back to the drawing board."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	194.02	0.7	7	-12.6	19	3.85	197.37	6.2
Austria	184.70	-1.7	20	-2.7	18	1.95	169.72	11.7
Belgium	282.35	3.9	2	15.2	11	2.92	236.18	32.4
Brazil	212.77	-0.1	10	12.2	12	2.03	436.41	20.3
Britain	329.14	0.5	8	16.2	10	3.37	292.44	19.2
Canada	207.43	-2.6	26	9.3	14	1.84	215.03	14.1
Denmark	432.77	-1.1	16	23.0	5	1.29	396.72	40.5
Finland	268.86	-2.1	22	8.5	13	2.08	301.67	27.0
France	229.84	-0.1	13	7.4	16	2.50	213.67	22.4
Germany	225.41	0.3	9	18.6	9	1.42	207.28	36.2
Hong Kong	344.44	-2.2	24	-32.1	23	4.66	342.71	-31.9
Indonesia	67.24	2.9	3	-70.5	26	3.20	210.37	-36.4
Ireland	393.34	2.5	25	19.6	7	2.60	379.88	38.8
Italy	113.02	2.3	5	35.4	3	1.67	146.56	54.6
Japan	95.17	-1.2	18	-26.3	22	1.02	77.58	-18.1
Malaysia	165.68	-1.7	19	-72.5	27	2.88	244.05	-56.4
Mexico	1,690.02	1.2	6	38.5	2	1.62	15,039.12	43.2
Netherlands	400.50	-0.5	15	19.1	8	2.30	364.40	37.3
New Zealand	76.56	-3.6	27	-16.6	20	4.43	69.72	1.1
Norway	314.76	-3.7	28	6.5	17	1.97	309.75	20.9
Philippines	80.14	-2.2	23	-60.6	25	1.34	156.83	-41.2
Singapore	234.15	-1.8	21	-44.2	24	1.77	180.30	-33.4
South Africa	259.83	2.8	4	-18.4	21	3.12	276.09	-15.2
Spain	268.62	-0.1	11	22.2	6	2.21	305.35	41.0
Sweden	460.22	-1.2	17	9.1	15	1.97	527.82	23.8
Switzerland	331.99	-0.1	12	39.2	1	1.14	294.14	48.1
Thailand	21.96	5.4	1	-77.1	28	7.32	39.30	-58.8
United States	386.47	-0.5	14	28.0	4	1.61	386.47	28.0

COMPOSITE INDICES

Region	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Europe	283.65	0.2	18.4	2.42	264.66	29.4		
Pacific Basin	105.26	-1.2	-29.2	1.70	86.95	-20.6		
Europe/Pacific	179.75	-0.3	-3.6	2.17	153.73	5.8		
World	248.60	-0.4	10.9	1.88	225.49	16.1		

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	128.93	130.45	-1.16	114.30
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.7753	1.7753	0.00	1.5517
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4314	1.4206	+0.76	1.3685
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6681	1.6496	+1.12	1.6725

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

Dec. 15-19: The Dow Holds Steady, but Asia Keeps Stumbling and Earnings Worries Rise

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market	Down 0.69%
S. & P. 500 index	946.78
Blue chips	Down 1.05%
Dow 30 industrials	7,758.29
Small capitalization	Down 0.62%
Russell 2000 index	420.03

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries	Up 0.22%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	213.41
Municipals	Up 0.32%
Bond Buyer index	124.09
Corporates	Up 0.21%
Merrill Lynch Master index	936.61

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	Up 0.23%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	283.85
Asian stocks	Down 1.17%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	105.26
Gold	Up 2.21%
New York cash price	\$291.10

YIELDS

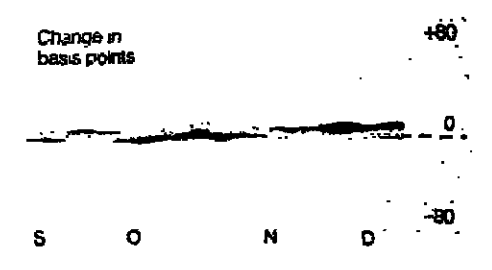
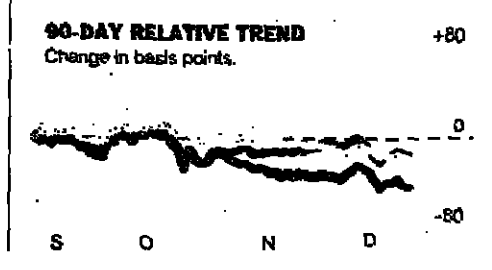
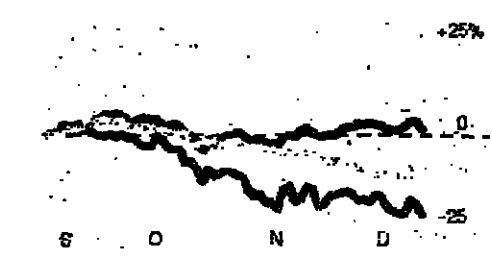
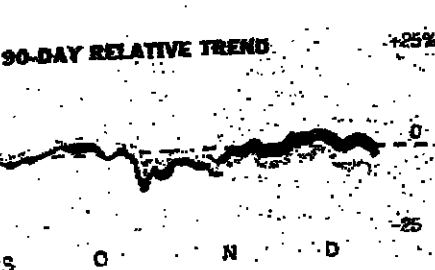
BONDS

Long bonds	5.92%
30-year Treasuries	Unchanged
Notes	5.64%
2-year Treasuries	Up 5 basis pts
Municipals	5.23%
Bond Buyer Index	Down 3 basis pts.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	5.10%
Taxable average	Up 4 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.16%
1-year small savers	Unchanged
Stocks	1.64%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Up 1 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The New York Times

Founded in 1851

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When the Watchers Speak

The watchful Secret Service agents are often an irritant to residents of the White House. Lyndon Johnson complained about them to Rufus Youngblood, the agent who threw his body over Johnson when John Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Bill and Hillary Clinton reportedly suspected that their first Secret Service protectors were gossiping about the private life in the White House. The Secret Service wants to make Presidents as comfortable as possible with the agents' constant companionship for reasons of security and self-preservation. More than one resident of the White House has threatened to replace the Service with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. So it was not surprising that the Service hierarchy reacted negatively when several former agents told tales about President Kennedy's extracurricular sex life to the author Seymour Hersh. The Secret Service's director, Lewis Merletti, called the agents' disclosures "troubling and counterproductive," and urged former agents never to discuss anything they had seen on duty.

An unhappy President is tempted to ignore his agents' advice, so the public, too, has an interest in preserving trust between the chief executive and his guards. But the agents who spoke to Mr. Hersh did not appear to be doing so frivolously. They raised serious issues about how well the President was being protected, saying they were prohibited from searching the women his aides brought into Mr. Kennedy's company, even though the police identified some of them as prostitutes. The Secret Service says now that if agents think the President's security is being compromised, they should report to their superiors. But it declines to say what the agents should do if their superiors fail to respond. Agents who talked to Mr. Hersh claim they were told by their immediate superiors to be quiet and do their best, and felt they could go no further without jeopardizing their jobs.

This country has a long tradition that holds individuals responsible for their own behavior, even when they are operating in a strict chain of command. If the President's security is being compromised, even at his own order, an agent has an

obligation to press the issue. If the hierarchy refuses to respond, taking the matter public must be an option in a worst-case scenario.

The question of whether agents should speak for posterity is a separate matter. Some respected historians say they would not want to see agents break their silence about even long-dead Presidents if the revelations could jeopardize the relationship of future White House residents and their security detail. But the choice is not that stark. The men who spoke to Mr. Hersh seem to have made reasonable choices. Mr. Kennedy and his wife are both dead. The situations they described were not simply titillating gossip. It is not necessary to believe that private character is a critical indicator of public performance to feel that behavior on the scale described by the agents could be regarded as significant by future scholars.

Mr. Merletti is right to remind the Secret Service about its responsibilities, but the public so far has little cause to be unhappy with the agents' record. They are not required to sign an oath of confidentiality, as employees of the Central Intelligence Agency and F.B.I. are, but the Secret Service has never been forced to apologize for a former agent who made a profit from a tell-all memoir. A former F.B.I. agent, Gary Aldrich, did write a sensational and often speculative book about the Clinton White House, where he had been assigned. The Justice Department decided not to add to Mr. Aldrich's fame by trying to prosecute him, but the incident may have put to rest those repeated threats to use the F.B.I. to guard the President.

Most of the problems between the President and Secret Service agents tend to work themselves out over time. White House residents get used to their presence, like people in a docudrama who come to forget an omnipresent camera. In the same way, the public may be best served by allowing the Secret Service to continue relying on its agents' own discretion. Trusting to the judgment of mere mortals may not be the most scientific way to regulate an agency's behavior, but in this case, it seems to work.

Remember the Neediest Children

While delighting in the angels and lights of Rockefeller Center and the expectant crowds in busy stores, it is easy to forget that there are children for whom the comforts of a warm jacket and a good meal would count as special blessings.

A report released last week showed that the poorest fifth of families in New York State had an average income of \$6,787 a year, a decline from 10 years ago when adjusted for inflation. The demand at local food banks and soup kitchens is soaring as single mothers face new restrictions on welfare and immigrant families are denied food stamps. Children in these families live with deprivation because their parents cannot find work or earn too little to fend off hunger, while others have been abandoned to the foster care system. Such poverty seems cruelest this month, perhaps because even the poorest children still dream that something wonderful will happen at Christmas.

As Times readers prepare for the holidays this week, we hope they will be inspired to share what they can with children who have so little. One way to help is through a donation to The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, which supports seven New York City charities that provide food, housing assistance, medical care and social services to the poor all year. None of the money will be diverted for administrative expenses.

A contribution will help the Children's Aid Society provide an array of holiday assistance programs. In the next few days, the society will hold parties for needy families at 30 locations across the city. By Christmas Eve, it will distribute turkey dinners to feed 40,000 children and parents. The society hopes to give out 200,000 gifts of toys, games, winter coats, boots, scarves and hats to children who might otherwise receive nothing.

Readers who need help or know of a family that needs help can call the Children's Aid Society this week, until noon on Christmas, at (212) 949-4800 or 949-4921, and the agency's staff will try to arrange for food or gifts for children who would otherwise be left out.

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, another fund beneficiary, is buying and delivering toys to 125 organizations that serve poor children. The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, also a fund beneficiary, is running winter clothing and blanket drives.

The Neediest Cases Fund charities help desperate families every month of the year. During the holidays, they provide a rare measure of happiness to children who have the least. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Checks should be made payable to The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 5193, General Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10087.

Editorial Observer/GAIL COLLINS

To Dream the Completely Irrelevant Dream

United States Senator Alfonse D'Amato took his fight against teacher tenure to Albany last week. He was a lonely figure, crying out into the darkness, rending his garments, wailing about powerful forces that seek to undermine his crusade. Friendless except for a convention hall full of campaign contributors, he pressed forward bravely, undaunted by the fact that no one with any power in the State Capitol appeared to be on his side.

Mr. D'Amato was so fearless of the odds, in fact, that he appeared to make no effort whatsoever to shorten them. He did not try, for instance, to talk Gov. George Pataki into joining his campaign. It was ridiculous, he said, to imagine he could move the Governor on such a matter. "I can't tell people what to do," said the Senator, without whom Mr. Pataki would most certainly still be a state legislator from Peekskill, making the annual good-will tour of the Dutchess County Christmas tree mulching program.

When elected officials feel an urge for some holiday pandering, they naturally gravitate toward the inev-

Man of Long Island seeks windmills for tilting photo op.

It is the impossible. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is a longtime master of co-opting the unavoidable. These days the Mayor, who has been suffering a severe case of discount envy since Mr. Pataki got credit for the new monthly subway pass plan, is making headlines with a demand that off-peak drivers be given toll discounts. The Port Authority, which was planning to do that all along, seems likely to comply.

Mr. D'Amato is more of a specialist in the dramatic, meaningless gesture. Legend has it that when his Senate office was transferred to a newer, spiffier building he wanted to be dragged there by guards to record his protest against the posher digs. In 1990 he took a chartered bus to the Lithuanian border to protest the requirement that visitors have a passport issued by the Soviet Union. Mr.

D'Amato yelled at a beleaguered guard for the edification of the reporters. (One journalist reported hearing the Senator cry: "I demand you let me into Latvia.") Then he went home. When Mr. D'Amato was still friendly with Mayor Giuliani, the two had a moment of high-intensity irrelevance when they posed as bikers so they could participate in a plainclothes drug bust.

It has not escaped the notice of Mr. D'Amato's critics that in the teacher tenure law he has picked an issue over which the United States Senate has no authority, or responsibility, whatsoever. And whatever its rhetorical merits, repealing the law is an idea that has not an iota of backing in the State Legislature, where the teachers' union gives more money to re-election campaigns than any other special-interest group.

The legislators normally have enough faith in their capacity for gridlock to take symbolic stands for any number of unlikely causes. But no one in the Republican-dominated State Senate has been willing to introduce a teacher tenure bill in order to let it wither and die in committee.

Ignoring African Abuses Is No Foreign Policy

To the Editor:
Philip Gourevitch, in support of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's trip to Central Africa, seems to hope that the military regimes, if given enough time and backing from the outside, will somehow evolve into democracies (Op-Ed, Dec. 18).

Mr. Gourevitch castigates human rights groups for "simplistic absolutism" that ignores the complex context of atrocities. On the contrary, it is because we know the context so well that we demand a firmer, more far-sighted policy. Having for years documented the abuses of former and current rulers, we know that repressive regimes supported uncritically from the outside grow only fatter and more violent, not more just.

Far from demanding "instant human rights and democracy," we ask at this stage the bare minimum. We urge governments and insurgent leaders to order their forces to stop shooting unarmed civilians and to punish those who do. We ask that those responsible for past massacres be brought to justice. And we ask the United States to refuse to accept the

crimes of regimes now defeated, the errors of the international community and the imperatives of military strategy as justifications for slaughtering civilians. PETER TAKIRAMUDDU
New York, Dec. 19, 1997
The writer is executive director of Human Rights Watch-Africa.

Congo's Progress

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 16 news analysis of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's Africa tour suggests that Washington's new Africa alliances reflect foreign policies that "eerily mimic those of the past," when cold war imperatives led the United States to support dictatorial regimes.

No, history is not repeating itself. It is Ms. Albright's critics who are stuck in the past, trying to impose cold war labels of "undemocratic" or "authoritarian" on governments that are barely consolidated, struggling to reconstruct ruined societies and, to their credit, proclaiming themselves to be transitional. In Congo, the new Government in-

herited a state infrastructure so decayed as to be nonexistent — the legacy of 32 years of Mobutu Sese Seko's corruption. Moreover, remnants of Mr. Mobutu's army and assorted bandits in league with genocidal Hutu militias defeated by the new Government in neighboring Rwanda continue to threaten the security of Congolese citizens.

Despite these conditions, President Laurent Kabila has diversified the political base of both his Government and the army to include members from outside his movement.

The Government has implemented a two-year timetable for constitutional reform and eventual elections, reduced inflation through responsible monetary policies, and made significant strides against corruption. ANDRE MWAMBA KAPANGA
Permanent Representative of Congo to the United Nations
New York, Dec. 17, 1997

Accountability a Must

To the Editor:
Philip Gourevitch (Op-Ed, Dec. 18) correctly takes some of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's critics to task for their "simplistic absolutism" in demanding that Central Africa's countries be severely judged for not ushering in democracy and a respect for human rights overnight.

But he understates the extent of the problem by suggesting that the massacres of Hutu refugees in Congo were largely a matter of some civilians and genocidal combatants getting caught in last year's civil war there. While this is true in some cases, recent reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch-Africa document that an intentional pattern of killings against Hutu refugees went well beyond this.

Yes, as Mr. Gourevitch argues, some governments are better than others, even if imperfect, but all must be held responsible for their actions. Acts of genocide and crimes against humanity must be condemned by the international community whenever and wherever they occur, regardless of which group is concerned. GILBERT MARTIN
Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 18, 1997

Let States Screen Elderly Drivers

To the Editor:
If more states mandated age-related driving tests (front page, Dec. 15), the families of older drivers, who must bear their rage when the keys are taken away, would also benefit.

The stress of the battle over driving is especially detrimental at a time when the elderly need the support of their families. Many families opt for allowing an unsafe driver to continue rather than risk provoking an angry outburst. The outcome is often a serious accident.

The revocation of an elderly person's license by an impartial state agency allows family members to take the more appropriate role of sympathizing with their aging relatives. LAURA R. JARETT
Madison, Conn., Dec. 15, 1997
The writer is a clinical psychologist.

Virtual Obstacle Course

To the Editor:
To determine when a person is no longer fit to drive (front page, Dec. 15), we should borrow a leaf from the aviation industry, whose pilots are required to pass a simulator test every six months in order to maintain their flying status.

A car simulator would score a driver's reaction time and his ability to cope with unusual road conditions ranging from slippery roads to emergency situations on highways. A 10-minute test would provide an absolute record of a driver's judgment and competence. Frequency of tests can be age-related or determined by other conditions like deteriorating vision. WILLIAM VANDERSTEELE
Alpine, N.J., Dec. 15, 1997

Reckless Speedsters

To the Editor:
Elderly drivers who are poorly equipped to operate their cars safely should indeed hang up their keys (front page, Dec. 15). But so should the young drivers who equate recklessness with manhood by speeding on crowded streets and highways, tailgating, weaving between lanes, intimidating other drivers, threatening safety and causing stress and "road rage." STANLEY D. FRIEDMAN
Elmhurst, Queens, Dec. 15, 1997

Better Road Conditions

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 15 front-page article reports that improved mass transit is needed for the rising number of older Americans who can no longer drive. But we can also do a lot to help the elderly maintain their ability to drive.

A 1995 survey by the Department of Transportation found that older Americans use mass transit for 1.8 percent of their trips — the same rate as other Americans — and use pri-



Illustration by Gabe

vate vehicles for 89 percent. The study also suggests that the next generation of elderly people is even more likely to drive, especially women. Making roads wider, adding turning lanes, improving lighting and making signs easier to read can help make the driving environment safer and less complex and will extend the ability of older Americans to maintain their mobility. WILLIAM M. WILKINS
Washington, Dec. 16, 1997
The writer is executive director of the Road Information Program.

Impartial Evaluations

To the Editor:
Computerized and on-the-road driver tests in facilities like hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation centers offer a solution to the problem of elderly drivers (front page, Dec. 15).

Family members can refer an elderly parent or a person recovering from head injury, stroke or other impairment to these facilities for an evaluation that takes between 20 minutes and an hour. The results can then be used to reason with an elderly or impaired driver who should not be on the road. FRANK MANDRIOTA
Vice Pres., Life Science Associates
Bayport, N.Y., Dec. 18, 1997

Organic Food's Integrity

To the Editor:
"Reading the Organic Rules" (editorial, Dec. 16) is a timely commentary on the proposed Agriculture Department rules for organic food production and processing. However, the organic industry's reputation was built not by government but by the integrity of certified organic farmers.

The government program became necessary as the organic movement grew into an industry and products started moving across state lines and international borders.

Organic farmers welcome the scrutiny needed to maintain consumer confidence, but this confidence will be undermined if the standards include noncompatible practices like the use of genetically engineered crops, irradiation and application of sewage sludge. The erosion of existing standards, combined with cost increases brought on by the regressive fees the U.S.D.A. will charge certifiers, could dismantle an expanding industry.

Let's keep organic agriculture on track and support a program that improves on rather than detracts from the framework established by organic farmers. EMILY B. ROSEN
PATRICIA KANE
Pennington, N.J., Dec. 18, 1997

The writers are, respectively, technical dir. and certification administrator, Northeast Organic Farming Assn.

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Racism and the News

To the Editor:
Gay Talese accurately identifies the harm done when allegations of racism are recklessly, even cynically, leveled and then prominently reported, though no evidence supports them (Op-Ed, Dec. 17).

However, in the "Tawana Brawley" trial, to which he refers, any charge of racism that any defendant makes against the plaintiff's lawyer or the judge is newsworthy specifically because it is so obviously baseless.

Let us remember that the key issue in this trial is whether the defendants acted maliciously when they repeatedly accused the plaintiff of participating in an abduction and rape of then-15-year-old Ms. Brawley. If they acted maliciously, the law tells us, if they knew their charges were false or, if they made them with reckless disregard of whether they were true or false. In answering that question, the public can reasonably weigh wild charges of racism voiced during the trial. STEPHEN GILLES
New York, Dec. 17, 1997
The writer is a professor at New York University Law School.

Cisneros Indictment

To the Editor:
Anthony Lewis (column, Dec. 15) charges that the indictment of former Housing Secretary Henry G. Cisneros by an independent counsel exemplifies the triviality to which the independent counsel law has been reduced. This misses the point.

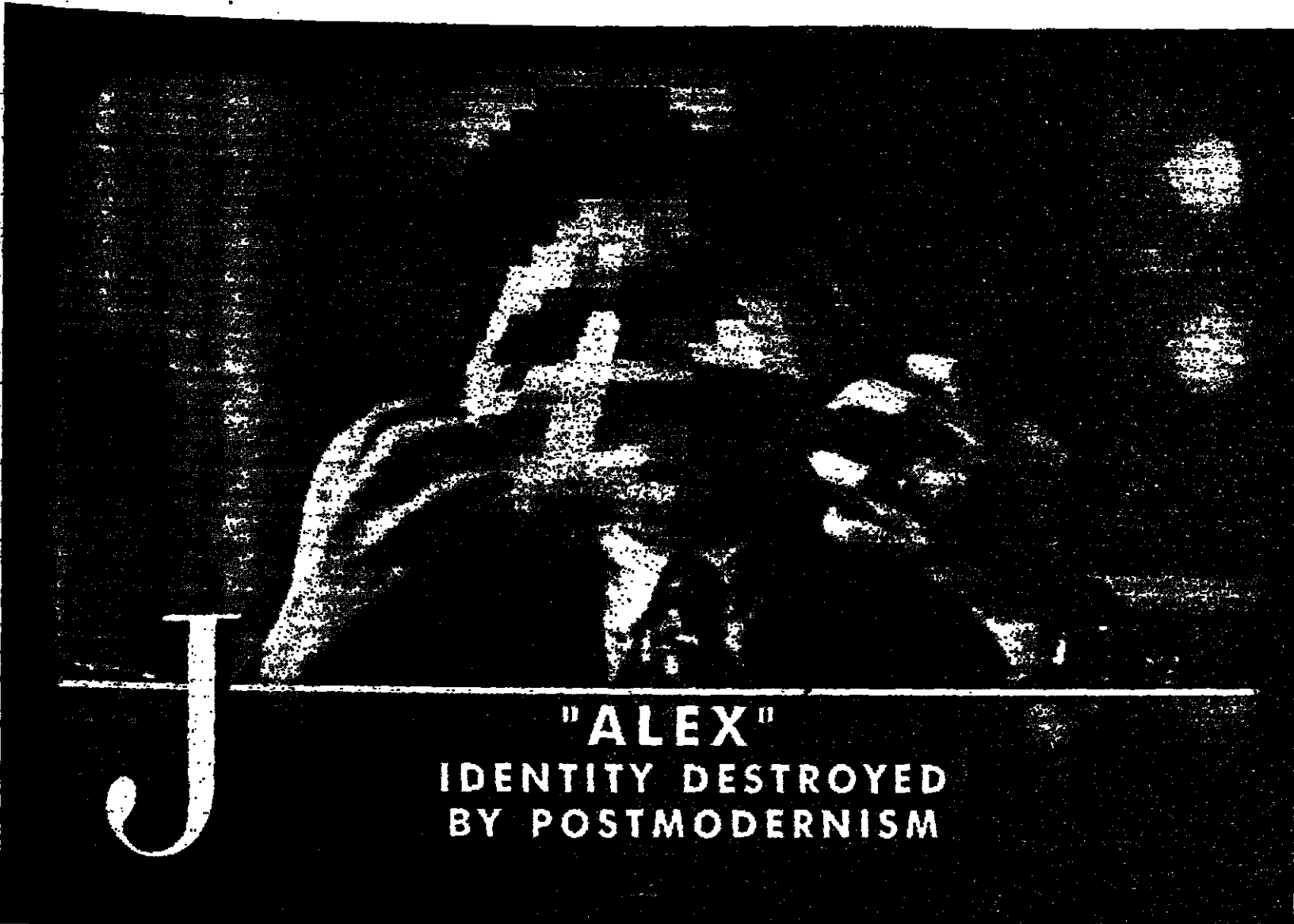
While the charges against Mr. Cisneros grew out of his extramarital affairs, his infidelity was merely a backdrop to the indictment. He is charged with lying, which misled the President, who was seeking to appoint him to one of the country's most responsible positions.

If Mr. Cisneros had been truthful with investigators, he would not have survived the vetting. By concealing the extent of payments to his mistress, he not only committed a felony by lying to Federal investigators; he might also have left himself open to extortion and bribery. PAMELA B. STUART
Washington, Dec. 18, 1997

Mercury's Health Effects

To the Editor:
Thank Heaven for Arnold P. Wendroff, a research associate with the department of geology at Brooklyn College, for calling attention to the potentially grave health consequences of ritual mercury use (news article, Dec. 14). Let us hope that the resulting inquiry determines those consequences to be minimal.

Your article reports that some health officials might fear treading on cultural sensitivities. I suspect that the absence of a convenient institutional villain poses a further constraint. Were a corporation believed responsible for mercury exposure, public outrage would be deafening. This episode reminds us once again that public health begins at home. CHRISTOPHER H. FOREMAN JR.
Takoma Park, Md., Dec. 18, 1997



Geraldo, Eat Your Avant-Pop Heart Out

By Mark Leyner

JENNY JONES: Boy, we have a show for you today!
Recently, the University of Virginia philosopher Richard Rorty made the stunning declaration that nobody has "the foggiest idea" what postmodernism means. "It would be nice to get rid of it," he said. "It isn't exactly an idea; it's a word that pretends to stand for an idea."

This shocking admission that there is no such thing as postmodernism has produced a firestorm of protest around the country. Thousands of authors, critics and graduate students who'd considered themselves postmodernists are outraged at the betrayal!

"Today we have with us a writer — a recovering postmodernist — who believes that his literary career and personal life have been irreparably damaged by the theory, and who feels defrauded by the academics who promulgated it. He wishes to remain anonymous, so we'll call him "Alex."

Alex, as an adolescent, before you began experimenting with postmodernism, you considered yourself — what?

Close shot of ALEX.

An electronic blob obscures his face. Words appear at bottom of screen: "Says he was traumatized by postmodernism and blames academics."

ALEX (his voice electronically altered): A high modernist. Y'know, Pound, Eliot, Georges Braque, Wallace Stevens, Arnold Schoenberg.

At 14, he was ruined by reading Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari.

Mies van der Rohe. I had all of Schönberg's 78's.

JENNY JONES: And then you started reading people like Jean-François Lyotard and Jean Baudrillard — how did that change your feelings about your modernist heroes?

ALEX: I suddenly felt that they were, like, scifing and canonic. JENNY JONES: Scifing and canonical? That is so sad, such a waste. How old were you when you first read Fredric Jameson?

ALEX: Nine, I think.

The AUDIENCE gasps.

JENNY JONES: We have some pictures of young Alex. . .

We see snapshots of 14-year-old ALEX reading Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's "Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia." The AUDIENCE oohs and ahs.

ALEX: We used to go to a friend's house after school — y'know, his parents were never home — and we'd read, like, Paul Virilio and Julia Kristeva.

JENNY JONES: So you're only 14, and you're already skeptical toward the "grand narratives" of modernity, you're questioning any belief system that claims universality or transcendence. Why?

Mark Leyner is the author, most recently, of "The Tetherballs of Bougainville."

ALEX: I guess — to be cool. JENNY JONES: So, peer pressure?

ALEX: I guess. JENNY JONES: And do you remember how you felt the very first time you entertained the notion that you and your universe are constituted by language — that reality is a cultural construct, a "text" whose meaning is determined by infinite

Hi, my name is Alex, and I am a postmodernist.

associations with other "texts"?

ALEX: Uh, it felt, like, good. I wanted to do it again.

The AUDIENCE groans.

JENNY JONES: You were arrested at about this time?

ALEX: For spray-painting "The Hermeneutics of Indeterminacy" on an overpass.

JENNY JONES: You're the child of a mixed marriage — is that right?

ALEX: My father was a de Stijl neo-pre-Raphaelite.

JENNY JONES: Do you think that growing up in a mixed marriage made you more vulnerable to the siren song of postmodernism?

ALEX: Absolutely. It's hard when you're a little kid not to be able to just come right out and say (sniffles), y'know, I'm an Imagist or I'm a phenomenologist or I'm a post-painterly abstractionist. It's really hard — especially around the holidays. (He cries.)

JENNY JONES: I hear you. Was your wife a postmodernist?

ALEX: Yes. She was raised avant-pop, which is a fundamentalist offshoot of postmodernism.

JENNY JONES: How did she react to Rorty's admission that postmodernism was essentially a hoax?

ALEX: She was devastated. I mean, she's got all the John Zorn albums and the entire Semiotext(e) series. She was crushed.

We see ALEX'S WIFE in the audience, weeping softly, her hands covering her face.

JENNY JONES: And you were raising your daughter as a postmodernist?

ALEX: Of course. That's what makes this particularly tragic. I mean, how do you explain to a 5-year-old that self-consciously recycling cultural detritus is suddenly no longer a valid art form when, for her entire life, she's been taught that it is?

JENNY JONES: Tell us how you think postmodernism affected your career as a novelist.

ALEX: I disavowed writing that contained real ideas or any real passion. My work became disjunctive, facetious and nihilistic. It was all blank parody, irony enveloped in more irony.

It merely recapitulated the pernicious banality of television and advertising. I found myself indiscriminately incorporating any and all kinds of pop kitsch and shock. (He begins to weep again.)

JENNY JONES: And this spilled over into your personal life?

ALEX: It was impossible for me to experience life with any emotional intensity. I couldn't control the irony anymore. I perceived my own feelings as if they were in quotes.

I italicized everything and everyone. It became impossible for me to appraise the quality of anything. To

me everything was equivalent — the Brandenburg Concertos and the Ly-sol jingle had the same value. . . (He breaks down, sobbing.)

JENNY JONES: Now, you're involved in a lawsuit, aren't you?

ALEX: Yes. I'm suing the Modern Language Association.

JENNY JONES: How confident are you about winning?

ALEX: We need to prove that, while they were actively propounding it, academics knew all along that postmodernism was a specious theory. If we can unearth some intradepartmental memos — y'know, a paper trail — any corroboration that they knew postmodernism was worthless cant at the same time they were teaching it, then I think we have an excellent shot at establishing liability.

JENNY JONES wades into audience and proffers microphone to a woman.

WOMAN (with lateral head-bobbing): It's ironic that Barry Scheck is representing the M.L.A. in this litigation because Scheck is the post-modern attorney par excellence. This is the guy who's made a career of volatilizing truth in the simulacrum of exculpation!

VOICE FROM AUDIENCE: You go, girl!

WOMAN: Scheck is the guy who came up with the quintessentially postmodern re-bleed defense for O. J., which claims that O. J. merely vigorously shook Ron and Nicole, thereby re-aggravating pre-existing knife wounds. I'd just like to say to any client of Barry Scheck — lose that zero and get a hero!

The AUDIENCE cheers wildly.

WOMAN: Uh, I forgot my question.

Dissolve to message on screen: If you believe that mathematician Andrew Wiles' proof of Fermat's last theorem has caused you or a member of your family to dress too provocatively, call (800) 555-9455.

Dissolve back to studio. In the audience, JENNY JONES extends the microphone to a man in his mid-30's with a scruffy beard and a bandana around his head.

MAN WITH BANDANA: I'd like to say that this "Alex" is the single worst example of pointless irony in American literature, and this whole heartfelt renunciation of postmodernism is a ploy — it's just more irony.

The AUDIENCE whistles and hoots.

ALEX: You think this is a ploy?! (He tears futilely at the electronic blob.) This is my face!

The AUDIENCE recoils in horror.

ALEX: This is what can happen to people who naively embrace postmodernism, to people who believe that the individual — the autonomous, individualist subject — is dead. They become a palimpsest of

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Public Integrity?

WASHINGTON

At the Public Integrity section of the Department of Justice, where the Clinton campaign corruption scandal has been contained, chief Lee Radek and Jo Ann Farrington are having fits.

Reason for their ire, Justice sources say, is the demand by David Barrett, Independent Counsel in the Cisneros case, for Public Integrity telephone records. They suspect that Barrett is quietly going after them for impeding his investigation. He's not the only one. As revealed in this space last week, Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility has been investigating Public Integrity malfeasance. But O.P.R.'s Michael Shaheen retires next week and Janet Reno is likely to replace him with a team player.

One reason for Shaheen's belated internal inquiry was the refusal of Public Integrity to prosecute a high official in the Department of Agriculture; worse, Radek even went to court to impede prosecution of the miscreant by an Independent Counsel.

That special prosecutor, Donald Smaltz, persuaded a jury to convict the official Radek sought to protect. Public Integrity was demonstrably not on the side of justice; if Attorney General Reno's department had succeeded in its obstruction, a criminal would be walking free and keeping quiet about higher-ups today.

Now another case has further shadowed Public Integrity. In Manhattan last week, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau brought Jorge Castro Barrado, 28, before a judge for sentencing in one of the earliest schemes to channel foreign money into Clinton election coffers.

The young man, a U.S. citizen, was used by his Venezuelan grandfather and father to contribute \$50,000 illegally to Democratic fund-raisers. That palm-greasing bought the grandfather a photo opportunity with President Clinton in the White House — splashed all over Caracas newspapers — and a meeting at our State Department.

When convicted for bank fraud by the Manhattan D.A., the young man offered to sing to reduce his sentence. Morgenthau sent the leads to the Miami U.S. Attorney interested in the South American connection, but the case was snatched up to Main Justice in Washington — where a conspicuous lack of interest was shown in following up.

Here was a conduit to U.S. politi-

Bob Herbert is on vacation.

cians, proved to have been reimbursed by the unlawful foreign contributor; he was hoping for a reduced sentence and ready to provide leads to investigators. Who in Washington knew of the foreign source of the funds? Who helped set the pattern of campaign money-laundering later applied so effectively to Asian sources? Despite Morgenthau's urging, the languid crew at Public Integrity merely went through the motions of interviewing the young man. Months passed. The key date of Sept. 26, 1997, came and went. Two weeks later, Lee Radek thanked the New York District

The rot at the core of Justice.

Attorney for supplying the witness but wrote, "We have concluded that there is at this time no further role for him to play. . ."

Sept. 26 was the day on which the five-year statute of limitations ran out on further prosecutions in this case. Radek's Public Integrity had saved the Democrats embarrassment — and thus showed how to impede the due and proper administration of the law.

Because the chief and acting chief of the Criminal Division have long been absent or recused, the chief of Public Integrity should be considered a person covered by the Independent Counsel Act. Specific information from credible sources — an Independent Counsel and a District Attorney — support a charge that Radek may have violated Section 1505 of the Criminal Code, "Obstruction of proceedings before departments, agencies and committees." Section 1505 makes it a felony to try to "influence, obstruct or impede the due and proper administration of the law. . ."

Justice cannot credibly investigate itself. Attorney General Reno can have nothing to do with a decision to seek court-appointed counsel to examine Radek's section because she has frequently testified how closely she supervises it.

The new Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder, is duty-bound to seek outside counsel to investigate impedance in Public Integrity. That would lead to lawful, unconflicted and unimpeded investigation of the campaign conspiracy.

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THE ARTS

The Arts Are Finding Fertile Ground in Ireland

By ALAN RIDING

DUBLIN FOR most of this century it was easier to find Irish artists proclaiming their Irishness in London, Paris and New York than in Dublin. Quite simply, exile was preferable to the poverty, isolation, censorship and self-doubt prevailing at home. No longer. Today, Irish culture is flourishing as never before; impressive new talent is flowering in writing, movies, music, art — and now it is happening in Ireland.

This cultural renaissance is more than a function of the irrepressible creative gifts of the Irish. It has come about because the country as a whole has experienced a metamorphosis. In barely a decade, the old Ireland that Wilde, Joyce and Beckett were so eager to flee has been replaced by a newly prosperous Ireland, brimming with optimism and self-confidence, in which artists have pride of place.

"Ireland in the 1970's bears very little resemblance to Ireland today," said Sebastian Barry, 42, one of several playwrights who has made his name in the 1990's. "It used to be so depressing. Not oppressive like Eastern Europe, but horribly unimpressive. It's almost a new nationality now."

For Irish artists, the change has brought an extraordinary sense of liberation — from the need to emigrate or the certainty of penury if they stayed home; from the shadow of the Roman Catholic Church and old-fashioned nationalism; from the straitjacket of the past. Today, they feel free to express themselves. They are eager to be heard. And they are being rewarded with growing recognition abroad.

"If you surround huge areas of expression with silence for so long and then a society suddenly opens up," explained Colm Toibin, 42, one of several newly successful novelists. "A lot of people are going to start writing clearly and dramatically. That's what has happened here. When people talk of the death of the novel, I laugh. In Ireland, it's reaching a heroic phase, like in Britain and France 150 years ago."

Yet if this sudden change is celebrated, it has also set many Irish artists brooding over its significance, uncertain if they recognize Ireland in its new attire, confused by the clash of old and new identities. What does it mean to be Irish in an Ireland that is revising its perception of itself and the world? If the country buries its past, what will replace it? Can the Irish become modern without becoming less Irish?

The search for answers runs through much creative activity here today. New Irish novelists, playwrights, moviemakers and visual artists cannot be slotted into a single category because their concerns are so varied. Yet many share an obsessive need to look at Ireland and the Irish through fresh eyes, to explore subjects that were long taboo, to strip "Irishness" of its nationalistic and romantic myths.

Plays and movies are daring to examine the civil war that followed Irish self-rule in the 1920's and the "troubles" that have convulsed Northern Ireland for most of the last 25 years. Artists are addressing such sensitive topics as the traditional power of the Catholic Church and the oppression of the Irish woman. But they are not returning to the past. Rather, the past is being dragged into the present to be dissected with today's instruments — say, the drama of movies, the humor of plays or the symbolism of visual art.

The social upheaval of the last 10 years also poses a challenge to artists. Gone is the old rural Ireland of "cottage, donkey and church," as one painter put it. Today, a newly urbanized country is being bombarded by American popular culture and has become transfixed by money. It is a society where drugs, violence and corruption have taken root. This may provide artists with rich raw material, but it is also disquieting. Where, they ask, is it all leading?

Ireland Re-examines Itself

For all the theatricality of its grand entrance, new Ireland has been in the making since 1973 when the country joined the European Community. As the community's poorest member, one that had changed little in generations, the Republic of Ireland began to receive massive aid to modernize its roads, airports and communications. By the mid-1980's, foreign investment was pouring in, attracted by cheap labor and tax incentives. By the early 1990's, Ireland could boast Europe's fastest-growing economy, its per capita income even exceeding that of Britain.

And more than the economy was changing. Increased spending on schools brought a marked rise in educational standards, while depopulation of the countryside accelerated. Meanwhile, the power of the Catholic Church was crumbling, family size was shrinking and divorce was finally legalized. The old political establishment, in power since the 1930's, was losing its hold on the country. Even traditional hostility to-

ward Britain began to wane.

"In the 1970's, we still had an inferiority complex toward the English," explained Michael Colgan, the director of the Gate Theater in Dublin. "and we measured our Irishness by how much we hated them. But in the 1980's, a series of 'accidents,' like winning the Eurovision song contest and beating the English at soccer and U2 being on the cover of Time allowed us to expand our chests. Ireland began to accept its identity, to learn about itself, to discover itself."

A coherent arts policy also emerged under Prime Minister Charles Haughey between 1987 and 1992. Irish and foreign creators were already enjoying tax-free status here and an Arts Council had been in place since 1973. But Mr. Haughey created the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the National Museum, encouraged private investment in movies through tax breaks, multiplied the Arts Council's budget and founded an elite artists' academy called Aosdana (the wise people in Gaelic), its 150 members each receiving a \$10,000 annual stipend.

The arts world and its hangers-on were even given their own Left Bank when Dublin's rundown Temple Bar district was renovated. Today it is crowded with studios, art galleries, movie production offices, restaurants and pubs galore. The artists of the 90's are being pampered like princes by a succession of governments that see the arts boom as proof of their own success.

Fame Came First Abroad

The boom was not entirely home-grown. In popular music, Ireland already had international stars in U2, Van Morrison, Sinéad O'Connor and Elvis Costello. Also, several performers whose names have come to symbolize this boom were first recognized abroad. Perhaps this is inevitable. In a small country like Ireland, only success in London or New York can turn an artist into a celebrity. But the likes of, say, U2 and Mr. Barry also helped convince younger creators that they too could make it without leaving Ireland. In fact, it is now foreign publishers, theater and movie producers and curators who travel to Dublin, Cork and Galway in search of new talent.

"Irish culture is operating as a matter of course internationally," said Garry Hynes, the founder and director of the Druid Theater in Galway. "A play by the Druid in London 10 years ago was very unusual. Now you wonder if there is any theater production that will not move out of Ireland."

The Irish had, of course, never lost their love of language, yet for decades Irish writing was kept alive outside the Republic, notably in Northern Ireland, the birthplace of the 1995 Nobel laureate in literature, Seamus Heaney, the poet and novelist Seamus Deane, and the playwrights Brian Friel and Frank



The playwright Marina Carr.

McGuinness. Then, in the late 1980's, a new generation of writers appeared — this time in the Republic of Ireland itself. Their emergence marked the start of the boom.

Roddy Doyle, still only 39, was the first to be noticed with his Barrytown Trilogy, "The Commitments," "The Snapper" and "The Van," hilarious novels about working-class life that broke with Irish literary tradition in both subject and language. Yet it was only when "Paddy Clarke, Ha, Ha, Ha" won him the Booker Prize in 1993 that he was embraced by Dublin's literary elite. His success drew attention to other Irish novelists, like Pat McCabe ("The Butcher Boy"), Dermot Bolger ("The Journey Home") and Mr. Toibin ("The Story of the Night"). Yet to name some writers is to leave out many others who have already found audiences abroad.

They may not represent a literary movement, but as a pool of new talent, they are hard to match. Many seem equally happy writing novels, plays or movie scripts. And their novels and plays are routinely turned into movies, among them the Barrytown Trilogy. Today, just being an Irish writer almost suffices as a calling card.

A Clutch of New Playwrights

As in fiction, the new playwrights were not immediately recognized here. In the late 1980's, Billy Roche, 47, revealed a special talent for dialogue in his Wexford Trilogy, but the three plays about life's ups-and-downs in his hometown were first presented at the small Bush Theater

in London. Similarly, Mr. Barry, who began his career as a poet and novelist, only won international acclaim when "The Steward of Christendom," with a memorable performance by Donal McCann as a retired Protestant police chief in Dublin, was presented at the Royal Court Theater in London (and later at the Brooklyn Academy of Music).

Among younger playwrights, Conor McPherson, 27, also first made his mark in London when he took his own production of his play "This Lime Tree Bower" to the Bush in 1996. The Bush commissioned his next play, "St. Nicholas," a monologue by a disillusioned theater critic. (The play, with Brian Cox in the sole role, will be presented by Primary Stages in New York starting in March.)

Mr. McPherson's latest play, "The Weir," in which four men and a woman recount ghost stories in a village pub, was put on by the Royal Court last summer. It earned Mr. McPherson this year's prestigious London Evening Standard Award for most promising playwright. His next play may also premiere in London.

In contrast, Marina Carr, 32, was able to present "The Mai" and "Portia Coughlan," two plays about Irish women, in the small Peacock Theater at the Abbey before both traveled to London. It seems Dublin theaters are now waking up to the new writing.

"In the early 1980's, the prediction was the playwright was dead — that visual and physical theater was in," Patrick Mason, the Abbey's director, said. "Now there are more young playwrights than ever before."

Their subjects are varied, yet the dialogue, humor and situations are invariably Irish. Some new plays, like Alex Johnston's "Melon-farmer," about wild Dublin 20-somethings and Enda Walsh's "Disco Pigs," about manic teen-age twins, present a fairly bleak image of contemporary Ireland. Yet even when plays are set in the past, as with Mr. Barry's "Steward of Christendom" and two other plays inspired by his ancestors, they are not necessarily about the past.

"My characters were no more than whispers of my childhood, so they are largely invented," Mr. Barry said. "The plays are after-life, made-up worlds. I constructed them with material from my own life, creating my own notion of family and nationality. It became my own idea of Ireland."

Martin McDonagh, 27, the latest sensation of Irish writing, was born and lives in London, but his parents — and his inspiration — are Irish. His Leenane Trilogy, about repressed and dysfunctional rural life in western Ireland, was first presented at Ms. Hynes's Druid Theater in Galway last spring and traveled around Ireland before it was acclaimed in London. The Druid production of "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" the first play in the trilogy, will be presented by the Atlantic Theater Company in New York in February. Another McDonagh play, "The Cripple of Inishmaan," part of a second trilogy, had its premiere at the Royal National Theater in London and will be at the Joseph Papp Public Theater in New York in March.

Starting Fresh in Film

With no tradition of its own to tap, Irish filmmaking has its roots in Irish writing: of the country's two best-known directors, Neil Jordan was first a novelist and Jim Sheridan turning his career as a playwright. Beginning to move into the late 1980's, each now has several successful films to his name. (Mr. Sheridan's latest movie, "The Boxer," starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Emily Watson, opens in the United States later this month; Mr. Jordan's next movie, "The Butcher Boy," adapted from Mr. McCabe's remarkable novel about a child who commits a murder and starring Stephen Rea, Aisling O'Sullivan, Sinéad O'Connor and Fiona Shaw, is due in February.)

The impact of Mr. Jordan and Mr. Sheridan has been enormous, not least because they have tackled tough subjects: Mr. Jordan dealt with the Irish Republican Army in "The Crying Game" and Ireland's internecine fight for independence in "Michael Collins"; and Mr. Sheridan's "In the Name of the Father" looked at the unjust imprisonment of a young Belfast man for an I.R.A. bombing in England. These directors, along with Thaddeus O'Sullivan ("December Bride") and Pat O'Connor ("Inventing the Abbotts"), have in turn inspired a new generation of young directors.

Paddy Breathnach, 33, is among them. And he is maintaining links to Irish literature by recruiting the country's new authors to write his screenplays. His first feature film, "Allisa," was written by the novelist and playwright Joseph O'Connor, while his newly released Irish gangland comedy, "I Went Down," was written by Mr. McPherson. Both writers are working on new screenplays for Mr. Breathnach, while Mr. McPherson is adapting "This Lime Tree Bower" for the screen.

Crucial to the embryonic movie industry are generous government tax breaks to encourage private capital to invest in movies and foreign



Daniel Day-Lewis in "The Boxer," opening later this month.

producers to use Irish locations (as with "Braveheart"). Irish movie directors can turn to the Irish Film Board for seed money for new productions. As a result, at any one time, at least a dozen Irish films are in production.

Ireland's painters and sculptors have had to fight harder to be noticed. The commonplace is that Ireland is not a "visual" country and there are good historical reasons for this.

"Visual culture was linked to the Catholic Church, which the English saw as a supporter of Irish nationalism," explained Declan McGonagle, the director of the new Irish Museum of Modern Art, "so the English destroyed the visual context. From the 17th century, culture had to be carried in people's heads as stories and music. The jump from the oral tradition to fiction was easy, so a literary tradition eclipsed a visual tradition."

Even after independence, the only option for aspiring Irish artists was to move to London to study and work. Irish painting, in effect, belonged to the English school. "I left Ireland at 18 because I didn't think art existed here," recalled Dorothy Cross, 41, a sculptor and installation artist who has worked with unusual material

like cows' udders and snakes. "And when I returned nine years later, it was still very, very difficult to live off art. Even now, people are a little uneasy with visual language."

Yet, once again, much has changed in the last 10 years, thanks to economic growth and a new infrastructure of museums, galleries, art schools and studios. Today, artists can stay home and survive.

"New hotels, restaurants and office buildings are buying art, not just one work, but whole series," explained Brian Kennedy, a printmaker. "Ordinary people also have money and have the confidence to buy contemporary Irish art."

While some successful artists like Maude Cotter, a sculptor, and Alice Maher, a painter, have settled in Ireland, several of the best-known Irish artists are still living in Britain, like the well-established Sean Scully and, from the younger generation, Kathy Prendergast. What has changed is that all now exhibit their work in Ireland. And a show, say, in the Kerlin or Green on Red galleries in Dublin, or the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery in Cork often leads to exhibitions abroad.

Still, it is harder to define most Irish art as Irish. Much painting,

printmaking and sculpture are abstract. But for Mr. McGonagle, the new work does have "an Irish accent." From Willy Doherty's video art to Ms. Cross's conceptual art, he said, Irish artists can be seen "re-negotiating" their relationship with Irish symbols, like women, farming, the seasons and the land.

"A lot of what is being done deals with identity and a search for different kinds of identity," Ms. Maher said. "We're looking for an identity outside the martyred image of Catholic Ireland."

A New Artistic Profile

Yet the business of creating a new identity remains complex. If the Celtic language is enjoying new popularity in western Ireland, for example, most Irish still associate Gaelic with the repressive nationalistic Ireland they want to forget.

How Ireland is presented abroad can also be tricky. Not everyone in Limerick was happy with the way it was portrayed in Frank McCourt's best-selling memoir, "Angela's Ashes." And mention of the crowd-pulling Irish song-and-dance show, Riverdance, prompted Peter Murray, the director of the Crawford gallery in Cork, to sniff at "all those black-clad young people goose-stepping around the stage."

In music, while the fiddle and the jig are still popular, the Corrs, the Cranberries and the mystical New Age singer Enya have perhaps come closer to blending old and new by presenting the traditional sounds of Ireland in modern arrangements.

Still, wherever the current boom may be leading the arts, Ireland's performers and creators are enjoying themselves as never before. There is hype galore about Celtic chic and only a killjoy would caution that the party could end in a terrible hangover if a recession arrived. For now, Irish artists seem hypnotized by the spectacle of an ancient land suddenly infused with youthful energy. And what a topic for conversation.

"I was much happier when this was a backwater," Mr. Toibin, the novelist, said with a laugh, "because you could shuffle around without noticing it. Now you have to interpret everything that's going on to everyone you know. It's so much more exhausting." □

FIRST THE SHEEP, THEN ... ?

By FRANCES HANSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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ACROSS

1 1962 Tommy Roe hit
7 "I'd rather not hear about it"
14 Go with the flow
19 "Casablanca" producer
20 Meteorological effects
21 "Beggars can't be choosers" et al.
22 Start of a verse
25 Ring thing
26 Toothpaste-approving grp.
27 "I Know" singer
28 Christian
29 "Olympia" painter
31 Every, in prescriptions
32 Tor's transport
36 They may have soft shells
37 Filippo Lippi's title
38 Finger, so to speak
42 Muezzin's call to prayer
43 Unnerve
44 Plum pudding ingredient
45 From Umbria: Abbr.
46 Verse, part 2
52 Dolly, for one
53 Lust after
54 Sailplanes
55 Stag
56 O.K.
58 Attribute
60 Mug
61 Designer in J.F.K.'s White House
63 Take under one's wing
65 Thin
68 Nice touch
70 "Caught" star Maria Conchita
73 —garde
74 Netanyahu's predecessor
75 Starbuck's captain
78 Its capital is Aldorf
78 Verse, part 3
83 Galley feature
84 "How now? —?"
85 Caesar's wings
86 Malodorous
87 Christian Science founder
88 RR stop
89 Jelly Roll Morton biographer Alan
91 Locale of Ptolemy's lighthouse
93 Good name for a chef?
94 Hardly a sissy
95 West of Hollywood
96 Patch up
99 Princess Yasmin — Khan
100 Obvious clue
105 End of the verse
109 Person in a booth

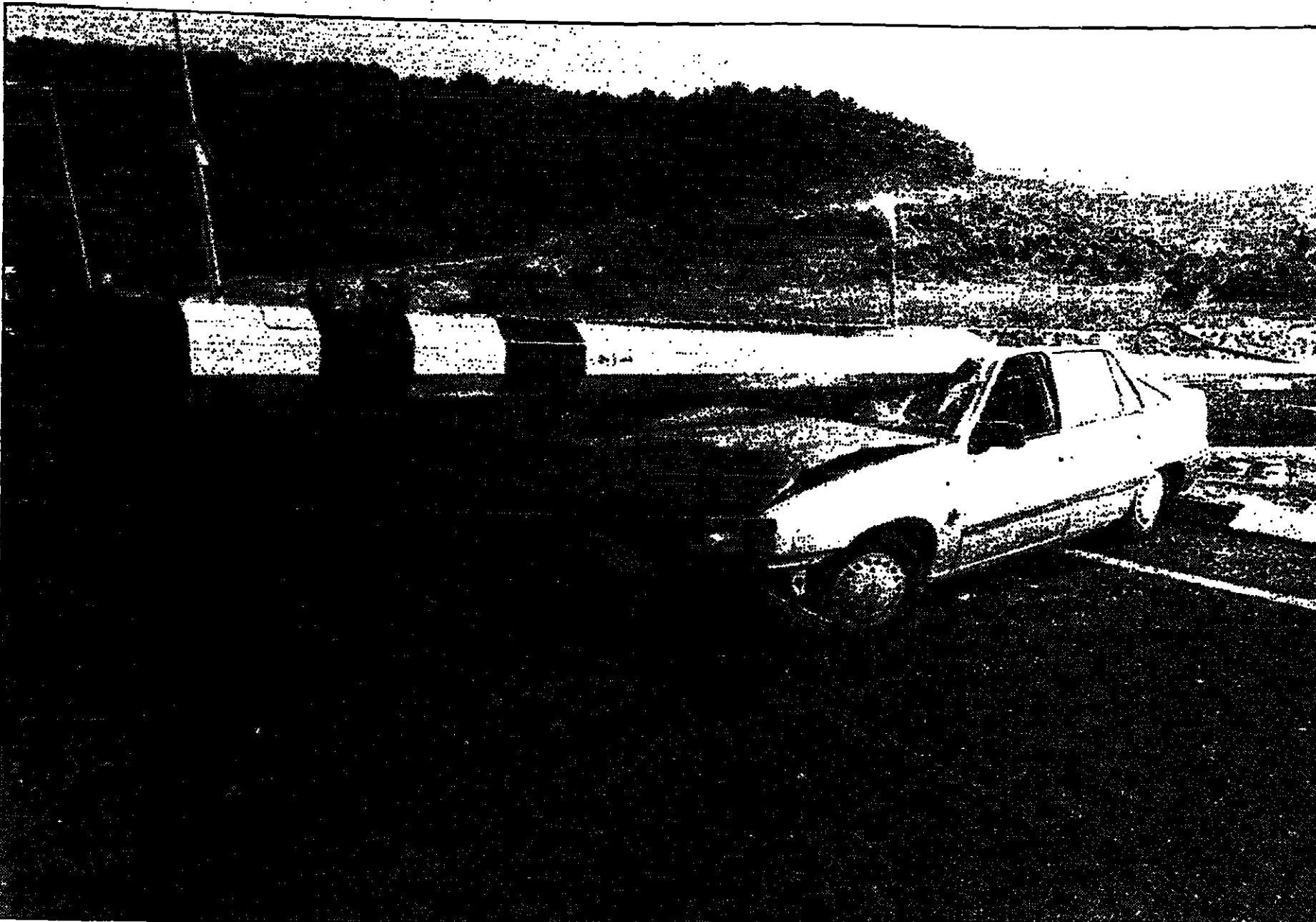
DOWN

1 Draft
2 Harness part
3 K-6: Abbr.
4 St. Pierre and Miquelon
5 Refuse
6 Classify
7 All there
8 Plunk
9 One of Knute's successors
10 Cheese made of 52-Across's milk
11 Cuts into
12 French Revolution leader
13 Toledo-to-Akron dir.
14 Extra
15 Not-so-mild oath
16 Stravinsky ballet
17 A Dumus
18 Lao
21 Lively, to Liszt
23 Dona — (Las Cruces' county)
24 The Magi, notably
29 Hampton Court feature
30 They're nonreturnable
32 Kind of warden
33 Boston Symphony conductor
34 Christmas tree hangings
35 Eves one
36 Napoleon relative
37 W.W. II tyrant
38 Certain rating
39 Friend of Aramis
40 See 72-Down
41 Bugs bugs him
43 Desktop publisher's supply
44 Social climber's concern
47 Affirm under oath
48 Ragwort variety
49 Strange "gift"
50 They may be modified
51 Richard Leakey's birthplace
57 Set back?
58 Making no progress
59 Sticks in the mud
60 Stalin's persecuted peasant
62 Bygone delivery person
64 Source of the Truckee River
65 It may be toxic
66 Work around
67 Broken
69 Shakespearean verb ending
71 Babydoll

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PASCAL ENTROPY DISPOSE
APPLICO CONTINUE STRINGS
REPEAT HURRYUPANDWAIT
POISON ATTEMPT
AWA NOO IVO DARRINER
RANKANOFFICE BOBLET
ARKING ROLLOPS NOT
BILL DARS HFRANDTUCK
SEEDINESS SPLAYS TOA
AIOE SRIEST SWAT
SEFRUITFULCARDUNLITELY
LINES NESONS MEN
ORA CANAPE THEGEASE
TOUGHANDGO ARID BLUR
GAM BENTFOR SEBATH
CRABO RANAUDDAVE
TRIFLES AAR GIL YEE
ARTI SWARE THERIO
COROUTAMOLEPLAY FINEST
TRABO STOLEOP LOCKER
TENDOS HERBERTO ENTICE

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.



Repeat performance: Only half an hour after this car smashed into a roadside light pole in Wadi Ara, injuring three, another car was involved in a head-on collision at the same spot, injuring five. 'When you investigate road deaths, you often find that the infrastructure wasn't good,' says Shmuel Hershkovitz, the new director of the Transportation Ministry's National Road Safety Authority. (Avi Hirschfeld)

Is Israel on the right road?

Lowering speed limits, revoking licenses, or launching more safety awareness campaigns: What's the most effective way to reduce the death toll on the roads?

In the first 11 months of this year, 482 people were killed on Israel's roads. The traffic death toll for 1996 was 513.

About a year-and-a-half ago, shortly after Yitzhak Levy took office as transportation minister, a group of Israeli traffic experts, sharply at odds with government policy, presented Levy a plan to bring down road deaths to below 200 by the year 2000.

"We're only now beginning to see some interest," said Prof. Eiluh Richter, head of the Unit for Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital's School of Medicine, and the most outspoken of Israel's traffic-safety critics.

The plan would include reducing the maximum speed limit from 100 to 90 kph; massive use of roadside cameras to catch speeders; lowering speed limits for all trucks and restricting them to the right lane; imposing a nighttime curfew on young drivers; requiring all bicycle riders to wear helmets; building "soft" side-rails and center dividers on highways; and laying down street humps and repainting walkways for pedestrian safety.

The key to bringing down road deaths, say Richter and his colleagues, is bringing down speeds. "An increase in speed by 10% increases the chance of death in a crash by 43%," says Richter. He and fellow researchers say data show that when the speed limit on portions of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv, Ashdod-Beersheba and Ayalon highways was raised from 90 to 100 kph in 1993, motorists got used to driving even faster on all highways and city streets, causing a rise in deaths that continues to this day.

"The Transportation Ministry's cardinal principle is that building more roads reduces congestion, which in turn saves lives. But the fact is that people don't get killed in traffic jams," says Richter.

Dr. Dan Link, one of the leading traffic professionals in the Transportation Ministry, says he and the ministry's Road Safety Administration opposed raising the limits from 90 to 100 kph on those stretches of highway. However, former minister Yisrael Kessar, acting on the advice of other experts, decided to raise it anyway, pledging that safety improvements would be made on those stretches of highway so they could handle 100 kph speeds safely.

Yet, except for somewhat enhancing bicycle and pedestrian safety on the 100-kph roads, Link says, "The improvements that were talked about were not made." Nevertheless, Link dismisses the claim that the rise from 90 to 100 kph is a crucial factor in Israeli road safety. "Out of the 14,000 km of roads in Israel, including 4,500 km of interurban highways, there are a total of 70 km where the speed limit is 100 kph," he notes. He insists there is no proof that speeds have been going up elsewhere in the country.

"You have to find a balance between reasonable speed and safety," says Shmuel Hershkovitz, the new director of the Transportation Ministry's National Road Safety Authority. Noting that speed limits in Europe are typically 120 kph or 130 kph, he says, "Every child knows that

the faster the speed at impact, the worse the damage.

"So why don't we bring the speed limit down to 70 kph? It would save lives. If we forced everybody to ride buses, it would save more lives. But it's just not practical."

Yet even when a technique is developed that dramatically brings down speeds and lowers traffic deaths, the Transportation Ministry isn't interested in it, says Prof. Gery Ben-David, head of Jerusalem's Center for Driver Research and Injury Prevention.

During a five-month period in 1996, Ben-David set up a Marom speeding and tailgating camera for four hours a day at various points on two high-speed roads in Netanya. A half-kilometer up the road, a Netanya police officer

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

By Larry Derter

watched a monitor and ticketed drivers whom the camera had caught in the wrong.

The police handed out some 2,500 tickets, largely financing the project, Ben-David says. Drivers on the two roads, who saw police busily at work, reduced their speeds by 20 percent. In the corresponding five-month period of the previous year, six drivers were killed and nine seriously injured

on Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi streets. During the five months of the Marom program, the number of killed and injured on these roads fell to zero.

The project cost NIS 500,000 — half from the Transportation Ministry, Netanya municipality and insurance companies, the other half from Ben-David's center. Yet when he showed the ministry the results and asked for funding to continue the program, he was turned down.

"The Marom costs a fortune," says Link, adding that there are much cheaper traffic cameras which do almost as good a job as the Marom. About 100 of them are being used on an experimental basis in Haifa and four other cities since Ben-David's experiment was concluded.



'Your speed: 63 kph:' flashes this experimental speed indicator in Tel Aviv, designed to make drivers aware they are exceeding the speed limit. Many experts say the key to reducing road deaths is lowering speeds. (Hanech Guthman)

Over the last decade Israel has been very big on traffic safety awareness campaigns, with TV spots, bumper stickers, petitions and marches. There was *Ani Met L'Hiyot* ("I'm Dying to Live") and *HaTima L'Hayim* ("Sign-up for Life"). Now there is the *Rega B'Hayim* ("A Moment in Life") traffic safety program on TV.

"All these slogans, stickers, programs and gimmicks have no effect whatsoever," says Dr. Victor Boncheck, a behavioral psychologist and consultant on traffic safety programs. "They make a big splash, and that's all politicians want to do." Another psychologist involved in traffic safety, who asked not to be named, said such campaigns have little or no effect and are often very costly. "But it's a good way for traffic safety agencies to show that they exist, that they're doing something," the psychologist said. But this isn't an entirely cynical motive, the psychologist added, explaining that public awareness campaigns impress politicians who control the budget, and soften them up to appeals for money for serious traffic safety work.

Hershkovitz disagrees completely, saying public awareness campaigns are *hasbara*, and *hasbara* is simple advertising. "If *hasbara* didn't work, nothing would ever get sold," he argues.

The most serious work that remains to be done in Israeli traffic safety is improving the road infrastructure, says Link. "When you investigate road deaths, you very often find that the infrastructure wasn't good," he says. Some months ago a young man on the way to his wedding near Tiberias was killed with four other family members when their car flipped over an embankment. "There were no side-rails on the road," Link notes.

"A number of municipalities are more concerned with how their cities look than how safe they are," Link continues. In the pretty towns of Ness Ziona and Nahariya, he says, "there are a lot of [dangerously-sited] trees waiting to kill you." Asked which cities showed the most concern for traffic safety, he named Ra'anana, Karmiel and, believe it or not, Tel Aviv.

Hershkovitz, who headed the IDF's traffic safety department from 1982-88 before becoming a private consultant, took over the National Road Safety Authority less than two months ago. He says Israeli drivers should expect traffic law enforcement to get tougher.

One of Hershkovitz's proposals could be called "Four Strikes and You're Out." Any driver who's had his license suspended three times would have it automatically revoked if it happened a fourth time. Another idea is that drivers who are caught speeding, running a red light or committing other serious offenses would have their licenses taken away on the spot by police officers, with mandatory license suspension time.

Hershkovitz asserts: "The Israeli driver has to know that the price of breaking the law — and not just the financial cost — is going up."

Third in a four-part series. Tomorrow: A driver who killed someone on the road tells what it did to him.

Helping Jews is very Christian

If you can let go of your fellow Jew's throat for long enough, there are strangers in our midst who'd love to tell you how wonderful we are.

Yeah, I know, some Jews feel more comfortable believing Christians hate us. When they hated us, we couldn't understand why; now we can't understand why they love us. We're a funny people that way. I rooted out a gang of nice Christians at the Rehavia office of Bridges for Peace — glowing, clean-cut, hap-hap-happy young people who devote their lives to loving the Jewish people. Try to get a nasty word out of them, and they'll talk about how we drive or problems with bureaucracy, and that's it.

"The goyim are afraid of what the Jews will say about them," says Clarence Wagner, smiling at the irony. "We understand the fear factor, the suspicions, of people who fled to this country to escape [persecution]."

Wagner, international director of Bridges for Peace, has 30 volunteers in Israel engaged in charitable work. Each one is screened, to ensure they understand why they're here. Dogooders only need apply; missionizing is, of course, forbidden. The only message they spread, says Wagner, is that "Israel is not alone."

You can't help but feel good about your people, and your country, when these folks get going. They're only too pleased to remind us of accomplishments we've long forgotten: the unparalleled humanitarianism of immigrant absorption; the greening of the deserts, draining of swamps and conjuring up of cities and towns out of nothing, in no time. "The establishment of Israel is one of the greatest wonders of our time."

New Guinea, South Africa are packing food parcels for everything from a soup kitchen in Mea She'arim to a home for blind girls in Bethlehem," says Rebecca Brimmer, proudly showing off the operations. "Working through 35 agencies, we help single parents, Jewish victims of Arab terrorism, Ethiopians. We try to help Arab Christians too, but most — I'd say 80 percent — of our aid goes to Jews."

"We believe that the greatest mitzva is helping people help themselves. We get people on their feet when they're struggling."

Still suspicious? They march into farms and factories to collect gleanings, as prescribed in the Bible, for the

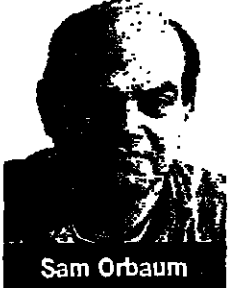
needy; they encourage Christian tourists to bring an extra suitcase packed with items they can donate to the cause; they run a program called Adopt-A-Family, directly linking 135 immigrant families with Christians who care.

And there's the project led by Carl Bennett, a 67-year-old gentle soul from Denver. Bennett is half handyman, half romantic. When he's not writing poetry, he's puttin' those big meaty hands to work, renovating rundown homes — heading Isaiah's words in the most literal sense, "Foreigners will rebuild your walls."

Bennett, who won a municipal award for his work, can do it all, from roofing to flooring, electrical rewiring to carpentry. "We're working on our 269th house right now. Place needs a lot of work; doesn't even have a cupboard, so I'm building him one."

No charge, of course. Carl's work, like everyone else's, is strictly voluntary, and the supplies, which can run into a lot of money, are covered by

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

"Christmas here is very interesting. For one thing, there are three Christmases. No Santas. No radio marathons of Christmas carols bombarding you. In Israel, Christmas is completely religious"

Makes you wince, eh?

But for Wagner's people, this is the stuff of wide-eyed faith: prophecies come true, biblical promises kept.

These Christians don't damn us for killing Jesus, they praise us for providing him. That, however, is too religious — too risqué — a message to bandy about in this country. They are here for three reasons: to promote Christian understanding of Israel; to counter anti-Semitism; to engender love for the Jews. They broadcast their message worldwide on a TV program called Jerusalem Mosaic.

Can that be bad? "Christians just want to get involved, whether for biblical reasons or, in the case of many Europeans, because of the Holocaust," Wagner explains.

They will be far from home this Christmas, many of them without their families, just to provide succor to the Jewish people. Vladimir, a towering, rosy-cheeked, bearded Russian, greets immigrants with a gift at the organization's Talpiot warehouse: a kitchen starter set and blankets, toys and school supplies for the children, a Russian-Hebrew Bible. Of course, that mystifies some rabbis.

"They wonder why Christians would want to give out Bibles — Jewish Bibles — to immigrants," says Wagner. To avoid any apprehension, BFP distributes the strictly kosher Rav Kook edition, in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League.

Just as important as the giveaways, for some disillusioned immigrants Vladimir always has an encouraging word: you're home now. "We want them to know somebody loves them."

BFP distributes a ton of food daily. It's quite funny, really: "Volunteers from Japan, Papua

donations. "Y'know, I used to carry around my toolbox and a bucket of paint on the bus. Now we've got a van."

Christmas for these people is nothing like they're used to back home. Barry Denison, BFP's national director for Israel, mentions the lack of commercialism, the complete absence of build-up to the holiday, a status so low that Christmas is a normal working day. "It gives us an understanding of what it's like for Jews in Christian countries."

Freddy Caldiron will celebrate Christmas away from home for the first time. But there's something about living here that you just don't get back home in Puerto Rico. "I can look out my apartment window, in Gilo, and see Bethlehem. I can't believe I'm so close to where Jesus was."

"Christmas here is very interesting," says Wagner, who's been in Israel for two decades. "For one thing, there are three Christmases. No Santas. No radio marathons of Christmas carols bombarding you from every possible source, including elevators and telephones, when you're put on hold. In Israel, Christmas is completely religious."

And something else that really tickles Wagner — the government's distribution of trees. "It should be a Trivial Pursuit question: 'What country gives free Christmas trees to the Christians?' Answer: 'The Jewish State.'"

Wagner loves the anomalies of the country. Israel, he points out, is one of the world's leading producers of Christmas chocolates. "And you know where we get our Christmas decorations? Mea She'arim." They sell them at Succot time. Wagner laughs heartily. "Imagine, 'Noel' in the succa. Amazing!"

DRIVE CAREFULLY

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[790845]</p> <p>GOLF 3 DOOR, manual, power steering, air conditioning, dark grey, \$3500, COIN, Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423327. [790845]</p> <p>HYUNDAI ACCENTS, BRAND new '96 manufacture, 00 km, 1 white, 1 burgundy, 1 pink mauve, 1.5 automatic, power steering, air conditioning, central lock, \$2550 nett. COIN, Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423327. [790845]</p>	<h3>VEHICLES</h3> <p>Jerusalem</p> <p>PASSPORT</p> <p>DAEWOO, SUPER-RACER - 1996 - manual transmission, 31,000 km., fully loaded, A.B.S. air bags. Tel. 050-240-977, Tel/Fax. 02-652-3735. [13443]</p> <p>HONDA CIVIC 1.6 GTI, 1992, 2 door, 58,000 km., excellent condition. Tel. 050-240-977, Tel/Fax. 02-652-3735. [13444]</p> <p>MINI COOPER, 1992, 1.6, 1600 cc, radio cassette, Tel. 050-273-569, Tel/Fax. 02-906-7875. [792294]</p> <p>UNRESTRICTED</p> <p>AUSTIN MONTEGO STATION WAGON 1991, good condition, automatic, 1990, looking for new owner. Tel. 02-996-5079 (NS). [791072]</p> <p>AUSTIN MONTEGO STATION, 1988, 7-seater, one owner, air conditioning. Tel. 02-673-5969 (NS).</p> <p>MINI COOPER, 1992, 1.6, 1600 cc, radio cassette, gear lock, no dents, 160,000 km., selling at 40,000 NIS, less than book. Tel. 02-585-1580 (NS), 050-316-715 (NS). [13447]</p> <p>MITSUBISHI L300 1994, automatic, power steering, double A.C., low mileage, tape deck, excellent condition, sacrifice. Tel. 02-983-1580 (NS), 050-316-715 (NS). [13448]</p> <p>VEHICLES</p> <p>1999 FIAT UNO, 1400, 33,000 km., excellent condition, 1st hand, air conditioner, radio/tape, alarm/immobilizer, 5 gears, 45,000 N.I.S. Tel. 02-583-5706 (N.S.) [791195]</p> <p>VEHICLES</p> <p>Tel Aviv</p> <p>PASSPORT</p> <p>MERCEDES 300 SE '86, in good condition, \$8000, well equipped, 250,000 km., electric roof. 052-605-963, 03-670-1143. [791258]</p>	<h3>VEHICLES</h3> <p>Sharon Area</p> <p>PASSPORT</p> <p>1991 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF, 3 door, full options, manual, metallic red, very nice sporty car. 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[791238]</p> <p>1990 HONDA ACCORD, 2 door coupe, auto/power steering, air-conditioning, radio tape, full leather, dark metallic grey, super car. Must sell now, hence price \$4500. Coin, Tel. 052-423327, Tel/Fax. 09-742-9517. [791240]</p>
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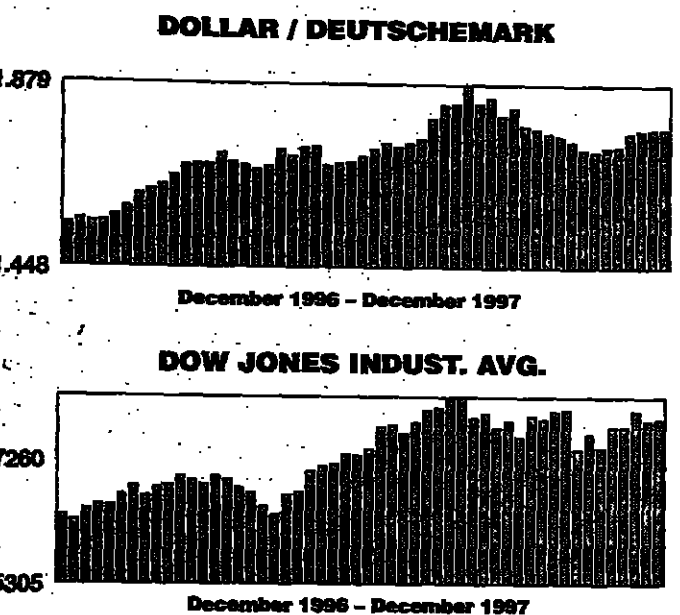
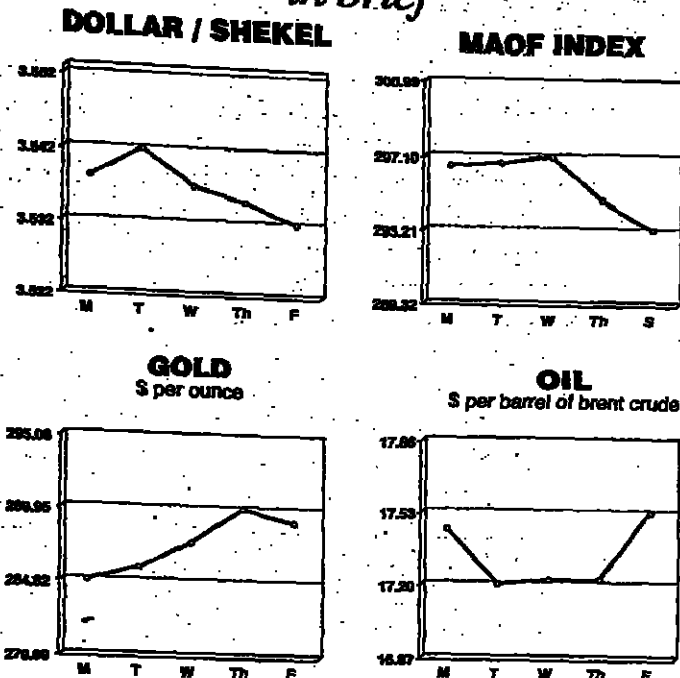
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MARKETS

in brief



Bank Leumi purchases 25% of Shore Capital

Bank Leumi U.K. has acquired 25 percent of the British brokerage firm Shore Capital Group, the bank said yesterday. It declined to say how much it paid. In a statement, Leumi said that the partnership with Shore Capital will help Israeli companies who wish to raise capital in London and will supply consulting services to companies which are interested in offering their stocks on the London capital markets. Shore Capital, founded in 1985, offers stockbroking services for professional investors, provides advisory services for companies and assists clients to make the most of the benefits of Margin Trading. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Discount charges lowest commissions

Israel Discount Bank charged the lowest commissions in December while the First International Bank charged the highest ones according to a survey published yesterday by the Banking Supervisor at the Bank of Israel. The survey compared the average commission charged by the five largest banks on the 12 most common banking services. The report shows that since March 1994 the average commission fell by 7.2 percent. The decline is attributed to rising competition and improving information about the costs of banking services. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

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believes George Warszwanski, director of CommStock's International Funds Division.

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For 20 years prior to his aliyah five years ago, George, a CPA, ran a successful private practice in his native Mexico organizing financial auditing and consulting for manufacturers and businessmen dealing on international markets. At CommStock, he specializes in offshore markets and international mutual funds — and stresses that both large and small investors receive the same expert, personal service.

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Geotek to sell \$85m. of assets

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The beleaguered mobile telecommunications company Geotek Communications has agreed to sell its European wireless assets to Telesystem International Wireless of Montreal, Canada for \$85 million, CEO Yaron Eitan said yesterday. Headquartered in New Jersey, the company, which develops communications technologies for fleet operators and their vehicles at its Yokneam-based research and

development site, said the sale of its European operations, including a wireless network in the UK and a 50% stake in Terrafon Budelfunk's network in Germany, would help the company concentrate on improving its business in America. "We made a decision after seeing the early success with Geotek in the US to commit the maximum resources to the US network," said Eitan. "Rather than raising \$100m. by selling stock and diluting the company's shares, we

raised the money through the sale of non-core assets." Earlier this month Geotek agreed to sell its peripherals holding, Bogen Communications International, for \$30.5m. Analysts said the company's new strategy could help the maker of specialized mobile communications systems rebound. "No one's questioning the technology, but the question here is the management," said Douglas Goldstein, director of Profile Investments, a division of Oscar

Gruss & Sons. "Now they are narrowing their focus more and more on their niche. If they pull off what they are trying to do, then in 12-18 months the stock might be a good play." Since May 1996, when the company's share price peaked at \$14, Geotek's Nasdaq-traded stock has been on a continual decline. On Friday it bottomed out to close at \$1.8125. The company said it will use the cash for "general corporate purposes," including restructuring its senior management. Geotek said it will "streamline" both management and staff, but did not elaborate on how many employees, if any, would be cut. Geotek's mobile communication systems offer two-way radio, cellular phone, vehicle tracking, credit card authorization and e-mail capabilities to fleet operators. The company will break even when 150,000 vehicles use Geotek's technology, Eitan said. Currently the company serves 15,000 users.

Sales of new apartments fall 8% in 3rd quarter

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Sales of new apartments in the private sector fell by 8 percent during the third quarter of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

A total of 3,790 new apartments were sold in the 24 largest cities during the last quarter of 1997, compared with 4,110 in the equivalent period in 1996 and 3,860 in the second quarter of 1997.

Sixty-nine percent of the sold apartments were in first building stages while the other 31% were completed or almost finished.

The highest number of sales was recorded in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ashdod, where 430 to 590 new apartments were sold during the last quarter in each city.

Despite the decrease in sales and the slowdown in the housing industry, the number of new apartments offered for sale remained stable at 12,380, compared with 12,440 in the second quarter and 11,650 in the same period last year. Of these apartments, 43% were three-bedroom apartments, 41% four bedrooms

or more, and only 16% were two bedrooms or fewer. Meanwhile, the Gadish Committee for housing aid policy formation yesterday submitted its



Ya'acov Gadish (Karen Ben-Zion)

recommendations. The committee suggested that the government should raise mortgages given to citizens who did not serve in the army to NIS 48,000 to NIS 151,600. A couple that served in

the army would get loans of NIS 71,000 to NIS 224,300.

The committee, headed by former state budget director Ya'acov Gadish, also recommended the giving of additional mortgages to those who served in the IDF or performed national service based on the length of their service.

In addition, families with two children and an income lower than 80% of the average salary (NIS 4,500) that did not buy an apartment within the past 10 years would be entitled to an extra NIS 70,000, half of which as a grant.

The committee also decided to improve the situation of new immigrants by granting them more eligibility points. Couples who wish to buy a house in priority zone A would receive an additional NIS 75,000, half of which as a grant.

The recommendations were criticized by Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who claims the solutions suggested by the committee actually hurt young couples, who are 70% of those entitled to receive mortgages.

Colorado investors to buy 67% of cable co. Gvanim for \$160m.

A group of investors from Colorado has signed agreements to buy 66.6% of shares in cable television company Gvanim, for \$160 million.

Agreements were signed with Telrad Holdings, which holds a third of shares in the company, and with Cable Com of Switzerland (Nordex), which holds another third. Eliezer Fishman and Haim Bar-On, who hold the remaining third, said they did not plan to sell their share.

Negotiations were conducted over several months through the US investment bank, Lehman Brothers. The price is considered very high. Gvanim has 136,000 subscribers, and purchasers will pay \$1,750 per subscriber.

The sale of cable television company Idan to the Aurec-Fishman

group was made at \$1,150 per subscriber. Fishman and Bar-On, (through Mountain Publishing) have no first right of refusal on Telrad and Nordex's shares.

The agreements were signed before a due diligence inspection, and are conditional upon the inspection's outcome, and on

approval from the Ministry of Communications and the Restraint of Trade Commissioner. Gvanim general manager Menahem Ackerman is also chairman of the Cable Television Companies Association. Ackerman's future in the company is unclear. (Globes)

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ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
TENDER NO. HET MEM-10/97

For the concession to provide management and operating services at a family leisure center with automatic game machines, in the arrivals hall at Ben-Gurion Airport

- The bidder must be a corporation lawfully registered in Israel, which fulfills all the following, this applying also to the business which it owns and manages:
 - Has at least 24 months' proven experience in managing and operating automatic game centers in public places, prior to the date for starting to provide the services, according to this tender (May 1, 1998)
 - Owms, possesses, operates and has proven ability to maintain at least 50 (fifty) automatic game machines, which are in operation on the date specified for submission of bids
 - Has a cumulative annual sales turnover from operating game machine centers, as described in sub-clause (1) above, during six consecutive months out of the 12 months preceding the date for submission of bids, of not less than NIS 500,000 (five hundred thousand shekels), at current prices, not including VAT.
- Bids for this tender can be submitted jointly by a number of bidders, provided that the portion of the holder/s of the experience and cumulative annual sales turnovers which meet the requirements of sub-clause (1) (a) above is at least 67% of the joint corporation which the bidders establish for the purpose of participation in the tender, or which they undertake to establish.
- The period of engagement will be for two years beginning on May 1, 1998 and ending April 30, 2000. The Authority is entitled at its sole, complete and final discretion, to extend the contract for up to three terms of 12 months each, but at its discretion can change the length of each extension period or combine them into one extension period, provided that the total extension does not exceed 36 months.
- The tender documents can be obtained from Wednesday, December 24, 1997 in the Commerce and Properties Department of the Israel Airports Authority, in the main building, 2nd floor, Sunday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., after the applicant has submitted a written application, specifying its contact person, telephone number and fax number, and has made payment in cash or by bank check of the amount of NIS 3000 (three thousand shekels), which includes Value Added Tax. This amount will not be returned.
- A tour for those who purchase the tender documents only will be held on Sunday, January 4, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.
- Bids, in accordance with the instructions contained in the tender documents, should be placed in the tenders box at the Registration and Documentation Unit (the Archives) at the head office of the Israel Airports Authority, Ben-Gurion Airport, by 10:00 a.m., on Monday, January 19, 1998.
- No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.

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More currency reforms from January 1

By DAVID HARRIS

The Bank of Israel yesterday announced the implementation on January 1 of a series of currency liberalization measures first disclosed in August.

The new measures include:

- Israelis may purchase foreign currency to open foreign-currency deposits here.
- Restrictions on trading in foreign currency futures will be lifted.
- Israelis will be allowed to move foreign currency from one foreign currency deposit to another.
- The ceiling on investment by Israeli companies in foreign securities will be lifted.
- All limitations on investments by mutual funds in foreign securities will be lifted.

In addition, the central bank announced measures deregulating the liquidity of commercial bank assets in foreign currency. These are the latest steps in the government and central bank's foreign currency reform package. The eventual aim is to turn the shekel into a fully convertible currency. This intention was announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last June.

The Bank of Israel introduced the foreign currency liberalization

as part of its efforts to refrain from intervening in foreign currency trading to defend the basket of currencies against the strong shekel.

The bank said that these latest measures will make it easier for banks and the public to conduct foreign currency transactions. Furthermore, they will create extra efficiency and more cost savings in the economy.

Raising the level of exposure of the economy to the world's financial systems will lead to higher efficiency and competitiveness of the shekel and the securities markets, it said.

Until now Israelis were only allowed to deposit foreign currency, which originated abroad or that was received as a foreign currency loan. Removing the limitations on future dealings will allow exporters, importers, households, and financial institutions to reduce risks arising from changes in shekel's rate. Mutual funds were allowed to invest up to 50 percent of their total assets in foreign securities and options.

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TARGET תרג"ם
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 18.12.97
Purchase Price: 128.75
Redemption Price: 126.98

Tender No. 14/97
Provision of Service for Refunding VAT to Tourists

- The Customs and VAT Department invites offers to operate the Value Added Tax refund service for tourists leaving the country. Period of the tender: The tender will be awarded for a period of five years, with the possibility of extension for an additional five years. Expected commencement of the VAT refund service is during the second quarter of 1998. Main requirements of the tender:
 - Operating VAT refund services for tourists at departure points, in accordance with the tender specifications.
 - Responsibility for processing permits for businesses interested in taking part in the VAT refund arrangement for tourists.
 - Maintaining periodic contact with both the Customs and VAT authorities and the Ministry of Tourism, for all aspects of operating VAT refund services for tourists.
 - Maintaining registration and reporting procedures to allow control and follow-up of the VAT refunds to tourists by the tax authorities.
- Acquisition of the Tender Documents. The tender documents can be purchased at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Management, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of a receipt for NIS 1,000 (non-refundable), paid into Account No. 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. Please mark details of the tender on the receipt and attach a copy with the bid.
- A bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 2,000,000, for a period of 120 days from the last date of the submission of the offer, linked to the consumer price index (inc. VAT), to ensure fulfillment of the conditions of the tender and the bid.
- Tender Participation Pre-conditions
 - Legal status of the supplier. The bidder must be an Israeli corporation, duly registered in Israel, which keeps audited account books and tax payments, or a foreign company whose representative in Israel is a corporation, duly registered in Israel and which keeps audited account and tax books.
 - The bidder must have had an annual turnover of not less than NIS 10,000,000 in 1996.
 - Proven financial capacity with a personal capital of more than NIS 10,000,000 in 1996.
 - A positive balance ratio of at least 1:1 between the current holdings and current obligations.
- Date and place of submission: Last date of submission: February 1, 1998 at 12 noon. The documents must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Tender 14/97" and inserted into the tenders box at the Customs Dept., 32 Rehov Agron, Jerusalem.
- For additional information, call Ms. Dalia Almog, Customs and VAT Dept. Management, Tel. 02-670-3225/6/7, Fax. 02-670-3443.
- The management of the Customs and VAT Dept. does not undertake to accept the lowest or any bid.

MISHKANIM LEADING TRADE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, listing various financial instruments and their values.

*In percentage points

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, listing various stocks and their values.

*In percentage points

LAST CHANGE

Large table listing various stocks and their last change values.

KARAM ISRAELI CAPITALIZATION

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, listing various financial instruments.

*In percentage points

LAST CHANGE

Large table listing various stocks and their last change values.

Large table listing various stocks and their last change values.

Large table listing various stocks and their last change values.

TASE drops following world markets turmoil

Israeli stocks dropped yesterday following losses on stock markets in New York and the Far East during the weekend, stemming from the collapse of one of Japan's biggest food companies.

S. Korea doubles bank debt guarantees

The South Korean government yesterday pledged to guarantee up to \$20 billion in foreign currency debt owed by commercial banks, doubling a \$10 billion commitment made Friday.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873.

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POLICE FIRE FIRST AID

Table listing police, fire, and first aid services with contact numbers.

STOCKS

prices of the securities in the two cities. Among Israeli issues traded on Wall Street and in Tel Aviv, Nice Systems Ltd., a producer of digital voice and data recording and archiving equipment, dropped 0.6 percent.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS

Table showing Buy and Sell rates for various currencies.

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Hap. TA eliminates State Cup holders

By ELI GRONER

There will be a new State Cup winner this year. For the first time in Israeli basketball history, a Cup holder was eliminated from the competition by a Second Division club, as Hapoel Tel Aviv last night shocked Hapoel Jerusalem by overhauling a seven-point deficit from their first-leg matchup.

In other State Cup quarterfinal action yesterday, Galil Elyon and Holon utilized their home courts to overcome first-leg losses and advance to the semis on the aggregate results.

Galil beat Givat Shmuel 105-86, Holon ousted Kiryat Motzkin 84-68 and Maccabi Tel Aviv turned back Ramat Gan 90-78.

The semifinal matchups will be determined by a random draw today.

Hap. TA 81, Hap. Jerusalem 79
Gil Mossensohn scored only four points the entire game, but they were the final four, which helped stifle a late Jerusalem surge, and ensured the sensational win.

What made the upset most impressive was that the Second Division club overcame the seven-point deficit on the road, after blowing an 18-point advantage in the matchup at Ussishkin last Sunday.

"Last week, we played 30 solid minutes before falling apart. Tonight, we were able to maintain our composure for the entire game," said Tel Aviv coach Yair Sharon.

That composure was needed most when Jerusalem closed a 54-41 deficit - in a fashion eerily similar to last week - to 60-56, a margin that would have given them the semifinal spot.

But Tel Aviv fought back, with Curtis McKents and Jonathan Roberts burying several key baskets, before Mossensohn iced the victory.

Holon 84 Kiryat Motzkin 68
Before the season began, Holon was a prime candidate for relegation. Now, halfway through the regular season, Holon finds itself battling for a playoff spot in league action, and after last night's win, with a place in the State Cup semifinals.

Cory Williams led Holon with 23 points and John McIntyre added 16. McIntyre broke open a tie midway through the first half by reeling off 13 consecutive, unanswered points, giving the hosts a 38-25 advantage.



POWER FORWARD - Brazil's Romario (11) makes his intentions clear to Australian defender Craig Foster. (Reuters)

Ronaldo, Romario hat-tricks crush Australia in Riyadh

RIYADH (Reuters) - Ronaldo and Romario each scored hat-tricks as Brazil crushed 10-man Australia 6-0 to win the Confederations' Cup yesterday.

Newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year Ronaldo made up for some limp performances earlier in the eight-nation tournament with a virtuoso performance, while 1994 World Cup winner Romario ended as the competition's top goalscorer to underline his claim for a place in the team for France '98.

The game was effectively decided in the 24th minute when Australian striker Mark Viduka was sent off for a wild challenge on Cafu. By then Brazil were already leading after an

explosive start that saw Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich make four good saves in the opening 10 minutes before Ronaldo opened the floodgates in the 15th.

It was expertly created by Denilson, who cut down the wing before dragging the ball back for the striker to hit into the top of the net.

The pace of the Inter Milan man caught Australia napping for the second in the 28th minute as he stole between two defenders and tapped the ball past Bosnich, who appeared to think it was running wide.

Australian coach Terry Venables brought off Tony and Aurelio Vidmar on the half-hour in a vain attempt to create some stability, particularly on the left wing where

Denilson had set up his store.

There was then a brief glimmer of hope for the Australians as speedy striker Harry Kewell ran through on goal but put his effort over the top of the crossbar.

But it was a rare foray and Brazilian defender Cafu made Brazil's third eight minutes from half-time with a cross that the Australian defense failed to cut out, allowing Romario to take effortless advantage.

The carnage continued eight minutes after the break as Romario again cashed in on some sloppy defending to score from Ronaldo's headed pass for a 4-0 lead.

Ronaldo's third came five minutes later after an outstanding long-range

pass from captain Dunga. He controlled on his chest and then hammered home on the half-volley.

The striker still had time to earn a yellow card for handball, a decision that brought a wide grin to the face of the Thai official, Pirom Un Praset.

Romario's treble was completed from the penalty spot in the 74th minute after Bosnich brought down Ronaldo at the end of a typical scything run.

The six-goal triumph came just a week after Australia had held the Brazilians to a goalless draw in a group match at the same venue.

Earlier yesterday the Czech Republic beat Uruguay 1-0 in the third place play-off match.

Syracuse stays unbeaten after 71-64 win over UNLV

LAS VEGAS (AP) - It wasn't easy, but No. 25 Syracuse remained unbeaten with a come-from-behind victory over UNLV.

Ryan Blackburn scored 14 points and Evan Thomas added 13 as the Orangemen defeated UNLV 71-64 Saturday night in the Las Vegas Shootout.

Trailing until midway through the second half, Syracuse finally went in front, 50-49, on two free throws by Jason Hart with 9:56 remaining. The Orangemen (9-0) led the rest of the way.

"It's a great win for us because it keeps the momentum going," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "When you can beat a quality team like UNLV in their own building, it does a lot for your team's confidence."

With Syracuse up 55-53 and 7:37 left, Marios Janoulis hit a 3-pointer and Tom Burgan made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 59-53.

The Orangemen sealed the victory by making eight of 12 free throws in the last 2:11.

Burgan scored 12 points for Syracuse, while Janoulis finished with 11 and Hart had 10.

Freshman Kaspars Kambala led UNLV (4-4) with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Tyrone Nesby added 20 points and Donovan Stewart had 11.

"I thought for a while we had a chance," Nesby said. "I thought we could win it. They're tough and they played a good zone, but we didn't make our shots."

No. 7 Utah 69, Oregon St. 61
Michael Doleac was just 16 when

he graduated from Portland's Central Catholic High School and headed for Utah.

For the first time in his collegiate career, at the ripe old age of 20, the 6-foot-11 senior played in his hometown Saturday night, scoring 21 points as the seventh-ranked Utes remained unbeaten with a 69-61 victory over Oregon State.

"It was nice. I definitely wanted to play well here in front of a lot of my friends and my family," he said. "Just being here in Portland, and never gotten looked at by any of the

Oregon schools, it was good to come back and play well."

The Utes (10-0), off to their best start in 33 years, fell behind 18-4 and never led by more than 10 points but held on by dominating at the free throw line and on the boards.

Utah clinched the victory by sinking 10 of 10 of its free throws in the final minute.

Andre Miller went 12-for-12 at the foul line, including 6-for-6 in the final minute, and finished with 18 points for Utah. He also had 11 rebounds.

Sampras eager to get back on court

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Pete Sampras may be the USOC's SportsMan of the Year but he finished his season on a sour note and is counting the days until he can get back on the court and begin preparing for his Australian Open title defense next month.

"I was hoping by this time to do some training and be hitting some balls, and really hope to hit balls by the weekend, if not I will be a little worried," Sampras said at his home in Tampa, Florida.

Sampras, hobbled since tearing his left calf muscle in his first match at last month's Davis Cup final loss in Sweden, spoke to reporters following the announcement he had been selected the US Olympic Committee's SportsMan of the Year.

The 26-year-old American completed 1997 ranked No. 1 in the world for the fifth consecutive year, won the Australian Open and Wimbledon but finished the year with Davis Cup disappointment as Sweden swept to a crushing 5-0 victory.

"Watching you lose from the hotel room, that is not how I wanted to finish my year," said Sampras. "I was not a happy camper and it ended my year with a little bit of a sour taste."

Sampras said he has been undergoing an assortment of treatments twice a day. "This thing is taking a little bit longer than I would like," he said.

"This is not the way I wanted to spend my time. I wanted to be on the golf course, but these things happen," said Sampras, whose reign at the top of the rankings equaled the men's record held by Jimmy Connors.

Despite the slow recovery, Sampras ruled out any possibility of missing the Australian Open, from January 19-February 2 in Melbourne.

"There is no question that I will be ready to go down to the Australian Open," said Sampras, who plans on leaving for Australia early in January and playing an exhibition tournament the week before the year's opening Grand Slam.

Sampras was not so sure, however, about his Davis Cup participation.

"I'm not sure to what extent," said Sampras. "The US team will host Russia in the first round of next year's competition April 3-5 in Atlanta."

Bath emerge from gloom with European success

By BARNEY SPENDER

BATH (Reuters) - Early last week Bath coach Andy Robinson, still smarting from his side's 50-23 thrashing by Saracens, described Saturday's European Cup semifinal against Pau as the biggest game in the club's 132-year history.

For a club which has dominated English domestic rugby over the last 15 years, winning 10 cup finals and six league championships, it was a statement which inclined towards hyperbole.

But after their gritty 20-14 win over the French club brought about by Victor Uboqui's try and five penalties from Jon Callard, Robinson would be quite within his rights to say the same thing about the final in Bordeaux on January 31.

"It's a huge win for us. You can't put words on it," said former England fullback Callard.

"In the past few days all of last year's dirty linen was brought out again and that was hard for us to deal with."

Reaching the final shows just how far we have come," Callard's words demonstrate just how the European Cup has established itself in the course of its brief three-year exist-

ence as the top club tournament in Europe, more important than national championships and knockout cups.

Until now it has been dominated by the French. The inaugural tournament, in which English clubs did not participate, was won by Toulouse and last year, when Bath lost to Cardiff in the quarter-finals, Brive turned on a delightful display in beating Leicester 28-9 in the final.

This year France has provided three of the semifinalists again. Consequently, Bath's progress to the final can be seen as an achievement in itself.

Two years ago, things could hardly have been rosier at the Recreation Ground as they put the lid on the amateur era by winning the league and cup double... and then came professionalism.

It led to the dirty linen: illogical high-cost signings which disrupted the famous Bath "family" feeling and a major dispute between the then coach Brian Ashton and director of rugby Jon Hall.

Ashton resigned first, and was quickly snapped up by Ireland. Hall was sacked soon after, leaving Robinson to pick up the pieces. They finished second in the league to Wasps

last year but the aura of invincibility was gone. This season their league form has been variable with three wins and three defeats and a place in mid-table, although the Saracens game last week marked a new low point in the club's history.

That, though, may have been a key point for the club. "It was a very sombre experience," said Callard. "That result was a scar that will live with us forever."

"On Monday, Andy Nicol (the captain) called all the players in for a mind session. He asked them if they really wanted it."

He said that if they didn't then they had better move off and pack their bags. That struck home," Saturday's win over Pau was hard-earned and unglamorous but to travel to France and win the final will take something more.

But, as Callard points out, for Bath it is a case of one step at a time. "This is a wonderful start for us and hopefully we can now achieve something that we were unable to do last year," Robinson added: "We've a long way to go before this team can compare with our great teams of the past. But they are capable of at least a 50 percent improvement."

SPORTS in brief

Ra'anana bowlers take honors in mixed fours final

The Ra'anana side of Gerald Sacks, Saily Goldberg, Natalie Goldsmith and Yossi Nativ won the Annual Midweek Mixed Fours Competition at Ramat Gan, beating club mates Gordon Silberstein, Len Averbuch, Hadassa Fisher and Isobel Myers 21-13 in the final play off.

The runners-up did well to come back from 13-4 down to within one shot of their opponents (14-13) but were unable to break through against final determined resistance. Sacks's team had a remarkable entry to the finals when they started the last head six down against Dan Van Creveld's Kiryat Ono side and collected a seven.

Van Creveld with Moshe Ayun, Shelly Haviv, and Channa Arnon earned the third place by beating the Ramat Gan side of Maximo Wagensberg, Rami Oron, Edna Zomberg and Kochi Yechezkel.

The competition, in its 11th successive year, was sponsored by Anglo Saxon Real Estate, with 24 participating teams in a six-week round robin competition. Norman Spiro

Rishon XV beat Jerusalem in mudbath

In the two senior local rugby league matches played at the weekend Rishon LeZion beat ASA Jerusalem 8-0 and Hapoel Ra'anana defeated Kibbutz Yizre'el 21-7. The game in Jerusalem was marred by the almost impossible conditions on the muddy field. For Rishon, wing Dudi Friedman scored a try converted by full back Ori Waldbaum.

At Kibbutz Yizre'el, the conditions were slightly better. For the visitors, eighth man Gavin Machet and center Herman Spangenberg scored tries while scrum half Darryl Edelstein was in fine form with his boot, kicking a conversion and three penalties.

Regional games were held in the youth section. Among the under 19's, the South beat the North 17-12 and in the under 16 group North beat South 14-12. Joel Gordin

Barker resigns as SA soccer coach

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Clive Barker resigned as coach of the South African soccer team Saturday following its dismal performance at the Confederation Cup in Riyadh.

Barker said his resignation was effective immediately and that he did not expect it to harm the South African players' chances in the World Cup, which begins in less than six months in France.

"They will do very well. They will do great," Barker said. A decision about his replacement might be made before Christmas "because we must give a new coach enough time" to prepare for the World Cup, said Irvin Khoza, vice president of the South African Football Association.

Iran names Vierra as World Cup coach

TEHERAN (AP) - Iran has picked Brazil's Valdeir Vierra to coach the national team in next year's World Cup, Tehran radio reported Saturday.

Vierra took over as Iran's coach last month and led the team to its World Cup berth.

When he was picked by the Iranians to lead the team's drive for a World Cup spot, Vierra was promised stewardship to the games themselves. But with \$3 million guaranteed from FIFA for qualifying, some Iranian soccer officials began to think they needed a big-name manager. Media reports had mentioned Dutchman Johann Cruyff, Argentine Carlos Bilardo and Italy's Arrigo Sacchi as candidates.

French goalkeeper joins West Ham on loan

LONDON (AP) - French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama has agreed to join English club West Ham on loan after apparently falling out with Paris Saint Germain.

With Czech goalkeeper Ludek Miklosko sidelined for eight weeks with a knee injury, Hammers manager Harry Redknapp hired Lama, who has refused a new contract with PSG and has been dropped by the French club.

West Ham has been fielding Canadian international goalkeeper Craig Forrest with Miklosko out of action with veteran Les Sealey as cover.

"I badly need another goalkeeper," Redknapp said. "Ludo has had an operation and Les Sealey is my only cover for Craig Forrest, but Les is 40."

Brive beat Toulouse, to defend European Cup against Bath

TOULOUSE (Reuters) - Title holders Brive reached their second consecutive European Cup rugby union final yesterday after being seconds away from defeat in a marathon match against former champions Toulouse.

Brive went through by scoring two tries against Toulouse's one in the 22-22 all-French semifinal draw.

In almost two hours of a tense, sometimes brutal clash, neither of the two European champions - Toulouse won in 1996 - managed to take the upper hand.

A try scored by Brive winger Sebastien Carrat with seconds left in regular time made all the difference.

It saved Brive from defeat as they were trailing Toulouse 16-11 but it also proved to be the try

that allowed the champions to defend their crown against England's Bath on January 31 in Bordeaux.

The two French teams had been unable to break the deadlock after 80 minutes, each dominating for one half.

In the first, Brive looked more aggressive, scoring one try through flanker Olivier Magne, who was injured on the action.

The second half went Toulouse's way with Pierre Bondouy also scoring a fine try while Yann Delaigue and Christophe Deylaud completed the scoring on penalties.

Extra time was but a kicking contest between two weary sides, Christophe Lamaison and Yann Delaigue each scoring two penalties each.

Milutinovic gets mixed reaction from Nigerians

LAGOS (Reuters) - Surprise, cautious acceptance and outright rejection have greeted Bora Milutinovic's appointment as Nigeria's coach for next year's World Cup finals.

Nigerian striker and 1997 African Player of the Year Victor Ikpeba said: "It's good we've got Bora. I'm cautious about what he can do but I look forward to his training."

"He's got a World Cup pedigree but his contract will create confusion in terms of bonuses for the players as the team progresses and maybe go on to win the World Cup," said sports and finance consultant Bode

Babalade.

Milutinovic, appointed last Thursday, is the only man to have coached three different teams in the World Cup finals - Mexico in 1986, Costa Rica in 1990 and the United States in 1994 - and thinks Nigeria has the potential to win the World Cup.

"Nigeria has everything except discipline in tactics and technique and I will provide it," said Milutinovic, Nigeria's fourth coach since the Atlanta Olympic Games soccer triumph.

Some point to his unattractive style of settling for goalless draws, which encouraged Mexico to sack him last month despite

coaching them to France '98.

"Milutinovic is a specialist in scoreless draws which isn't a positive approach," said Nigerian footballer Makpor Dibofun.

"Some of us have already nicknamed him 'Boring Bora'."

"Nigerian soccer is going to change but slowly with this appointment. Call it the best thing since Brazilian Otto Gloriz coached here," said TV soccer analyst Godwin Orumen.

The late Brazilian, who led Portugal to third place at the 1966 World Cup finals, trained the Nigerians to their first triumph at the African Nations Cup tournament in 1980.

What's in a name?

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar sues Karim Abdul-Jabbar

What's in a name? Quite a bit of money, according to NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who has sued Miami Dolphins running back Karim Abdul-Jabbar because the football player's adopted Islamic name too closely resembles his own.

The fact that Kareem is 16 inches taller, is 27 years older and gained fame for playing a different sport than Karim does not matter to the older, taller, Abdul-Jabbar. If the shorter, younger Abdul-Jabbar does not change his name, it could cause Kareem "irreparable harm" in his attempt to trade off that name in the form of commercial endorsements, licensed products, speaking engagements and book deals, according to the lawsuit filed last month in Los Angeles.

Both spell their last names the same, but the first names are spelled slightly differently — Kareem (basketball) vs. Karim (football). And there are other similarities in their lives. Their jersey numbers are the same — 33. They played collegiately at UCLA, where they also accepted the Hanafi school of Islam.

When Karim was born in 1974 in Los Angeles to a Muslim family, his name was Sharmon Shah. He went through "a religious affirmation of some importance at UCLA," in 1995, according to his Los Angeles attorney, Amy D-Hogue.

On the other hand, Lew Alcindor was Kareem Abdul-Jabbar since 1971 and had helped the hometown Los Angeles Lakers win five NBA titles.

Karim said that, while he knew the name would raise eyebrows, there was nothing he could do about it. His Islamic name was chosen by an imam, or Islamic prayer leader.

Kareem's attorneys contend in the lawsuit that licensed products bearing his name and various trademarks registered to him, as well as endorsements, have generated sales of more than \$100 million in the past 10 years. Those sales produced an annual income of at least \$1 million for Kareem, who since leaving the NBA has become a speaker, actor and author.

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiff wrote a letter to Karim a month after becoming aware of the name change in 1995. He asked the football player to select another Islamic name — or, if he kept Abdul-Jabbar, not to exploit it commercially after leaving UCLA.

Two brands of Dolphins replica jerseys bearing "Abdul-Jabbar 33" are on the market, according to the lawsuit, an unspecified sporting goods company requested unsuccessfully in April that "Kareem not challenge the use of 'Abdul-Jabbar 33.'"

For Kareem's lawsuit to proceed to trial, he will need to show there is a likelihood that the public will be confused by commercial use of the two names, according to Jerry Samuels, former assistant commissioner for trademarks at the US Office of Patents and Trademarks.

"I'm not making a value judgment," athletic department spokesman Marc Dellinus said. "They're both Bruins, and we love them both." (The Washington Post)

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Dennis Rodman grabbed a season-high 24 rebounds and Michael Jordan ignited an 11-point fourth quarter run that led the Chicago Bulls to their fourth straight win, 100-92 over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday.

Jordan finished with 24 points that gave Bulls coach Phil Jackson his 499th career coaching victory.

If Chicago wins one of its next two games, Jackson would break Pat Riley's record for fewest games to reach the 500-victory milestone.

Ron Harper added 19 points, while Toni Kukoc had seven of his 14 points in the final quarter when Chicago outscored New Jersey 35-21.

Wizards 94, Raptors 92
Chris Webber scored 28 points and tipped-in a missed shot on the buzzer to lift visiting Washington to its fourth straight win.

Raptors coach Darrell Walker ran onto the court to protest the shot, claiming it went down after the buzzer, but to no avail.

Lakers 109, Hornets 100
Nick Van Exel scored 11 points in the final 3:06 as Los Angeles gained its league-leading 10th road win.

Pistons 115, 76ers 78
Jerome Williams had career-highs of 22 points and 13 rebounds off the bench to lead host Detroit to a rout of Philadelphia.

The game came just two days after the 76ers traded Jerry Stackhouse and Eric Montross to the Pistons for Theo Ratliff and Aaron McKie. The Pistons certainly looked like they got the better of the trade as Stackhouse (20) and Montross (6) by 14 points.

Montross also added a season-high 14 rebounds.

Hawks 92
Alonzo Mourning made his first start of the season and blocked two of Steve Smith's shots down the stretch to help host Miami over Atlanta in a matchup of Eastern Conference leaders.

Mourning, who returned from the injured list earlier this week and had been coming off the bench, scored 21 points with 12 rebounds and four blocks.

Pacers 95, Magic 92
Chris Mullin and Mark Jackson scored 18 points each and Indiana scored 12 of its last 16 points from the foul line to hold off host Orlando and win its sixth straight.

Timberwolves 93, Clippers 91
Kevin Garnett's tip-in with 5.8 seconds to play highlighted a dizzying final 11 seconds as Minnesota won at home.

Garnett had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Stephen Marbury, who came off the bench due to a sore toe, contributed 16 assists.

Suns 102, Rockets 87
Avery Johnson scored a season-high 21 points as host San Antonio avenged its worst loss of the season.

Sean Elliott also had a season-best with 20 and Tim Duncan added 20 to San Antonio, which won its fifth straight.

Kings 89, Mavericks 88
Corliss Williamson matched a career-high with 27 points and rookie Michael Stewart made a key block in the final minute as Sacramento ended a nine-game road losing streak.

Bucks 98, Knicks 78
Patrick Ewing dislocated a bone in his right wrist when he fell hard and New York matched its season-low for points in a road loss to Milwaukee.

Ray Allen had a career-high 35



AIR EXPRESS — Bulls' Michael Jordan sails to the hoop over Nets defenders Sam Cassell and David Benoit on his way to two of his 24 points in Sunday's 110-92 win.

points and Glenn Robinson had 27 as the Bucks snapped a five-game losing streak.

Ewing, attempting to dunk an alley-oop pass from Charlie Ward with 24.9 left in the second quarter, was fouled by Andrew Lang and broke his fall with his arms before landing on his tail-

bone.

X-rays revealed the dislocation in Ewing's right hand.

Suns 102, Nuggets 81
Steve Nash scored a career-high 20 points as Phoenix handed host Denver its seventh straight loss.

Danny Manning added 15 points and Antonio McDyess had

13 points and five rebounds in his first trip back to Denver since being acquired by the Suns on October 1 in a three-team deal.

Forget the Marlins!

The cruelest film this year is *In the Company of Men*. Two single men on temporary transfer: out of town decide to seek the single most vulnerable woman, alternately court her, make her fall in love, dump her and let her drown in her own tears.

Life is like that. anything that man in the Bronx has done.

The Marlins' owner, formerly known as Mr. Blockbuster, set out to find how many fans would love his team if it was a winner. So he boosted his payroll to \$50 million, fifth in the business, and 2,364,387 fans turned out, fifth in the National League.

Not enough. This was a new area with no from-birth allegiance to the home team. The biggest boost would have come next year. "If we put out the same team, undoubtedly 3 million attendance," said Dave Dombrowski, the general manager who follows orders.

Mr. Blockbuster should have known better, but he's accustomed to making bucks immediately. I wouldn't buy a jalopy from Mr. CarQuest, either.

Humbug! That was crocodile thanks.

Don't dare ask for my tax money for a new stadium. This was more cynical than life imitates art. The baseball team moves into a new area that had no big-league baseball, courts it extravagantly with the climax of the seventh game of the World Series in extra innings and wins — and then dumps it. It was only days before the newly beloved Moises Alou was gone. And loyal Jeff Conine, And palindromic Robb Nen. Kevin Brown, who could pitch even if he couldn't smile. And they tell us don't write the remaining names in ink.

Phone the Florida Marlins' number: "Thank you for supporting our team throughout our world championship season. We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark next year."

Newsday

Flyers top Florida, unbeaten streak reaches seven

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rod Brind'Amour and Eric Lindros scored power-play goals and Garth Snow stopped 14 shots Saturday as Philadelphia beat Florida 2-0 to extend its unbeaten streak to seven games.

It was the fourth loss in five games for the Panthers who had snapped a three-game losing streak with a 4-0 win over Washington on Thursday.

Snow was rarely tested as he registered his third career shutout and first since blanking the New York Islanders, 5-0, on December 19, 1996. The Flyers held the Panthers without a shot for almost 16 minutes in the second period.

Rangers 2, Lightning 2
Darren Puppa had 39 saves as host Tampa Bay salvaged the tie.

Puppa kept the Lightning close in the first two periods, stopping 11 of 12 shots during a five-minute New York power play in

the first period. Kevin Stevens' second chance rebound gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead at the 16:28 mark of the period, but Puppa stopped seven other point-blank shots.

After being outshot 26-16 in the first two periods, Tampa Bay took a 2-1 lead in the third period on goals by **Leonard Langkow** and **Alex Selivanov**.

Tim Sweeney salvaged the Rangers' 12th tie of the season when he scored on a wrist shot over Puppa's glove with 2:32 left in regulation.

Flames 4, Kings 1
Los Angeles defenseman Rob Blake had a goal and an assist and **Stephane Fiset** made 36 saves for visiting Los Angeles.

Capitals 2, Hurricanes 1
Steve Konowalchuk scored with 3:50 left as visiting Washington broke its six-game winless streak. Konowalchuk, who had come out

of the penalty box just minutes earlier, scored just his third goal in 36 games. He took a pass from a falling down Richard Zednik in the slot and one-timed it past Hurricanes goaltender Sean Burke.

Islanders 4, Bruins 3
Todd Bertuzzi's power-play goal with 14 seconds remaining in the second period carried New York to an away win.

Tommy Salo stopped 29 shots, including 13 in the third period as the Islanders beat the Bruins for the third straight time to stay unbeaten in their last four games.

Canadiens 4, Senators 1
Brian Savage broke out of a slump with two goals and Andy Moog made 25 saves to lead Montreal to a home win.

Savage entered the game scoreless in the previous nine games and had only six goals in 28

games. Canadiens coach Alain Vigneault promoted Savage to the first line with Saku Koivu and Mark Recchi this week, hoping to spark the struggling forward.

Blues 4, Penguins 1
Grant Fuhr made 31 saves and Terry Yake had a goal and two assists as host St. Louis ended Pittsburgh's six-game unbeaten streak.

Stars 2, Oilers 1 (OT)
Sergei Zubov's power-play goal at 1:07 of overtime lifted Dallas to a road win.

Maple Leafs 3, Coyotes 2
Toronto Maple Leafs forward Wendel Clark isn't doing anything differently. He's just getting a little luckier.

Clark scored a pair of goals to lead Toronto to a split of their four-game road trip.

Darby Hendrickson also scored

for the Maple Leafs, who snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Coyotes.

Blackhawks 5, Canucks 0
With his hockey sticks still in

transit, Chicago's Dimitri Nabokov borrowed the stick of Vancouver's Adrian Aucoin and used it to score two goals in the Blackhawks' road win.

NBA Leaders (Through December 19)

Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Jordan, Chi.	24	236	164	643	26.8
Malone, Utah	24	230	161	621	25.9
Robinson, S.A.	24	196	179	571	23.8
Richardson, Sac.	25	199	140	567	22.7
Kerr, Oak.	23	179	120	506	22.0
Alford-Rubin, Van.	26	201	169	571	22.0
Walker, Bos.	23	194	81	496	21.6
Ewing, N.Y.	25	199	130	528	21.1
Iverson, Phil.	21	166	94	440	21.0
Hiller, Ind.	24	158	142	498	20.8
Robinson, Mil.	24	205	73	493	20.5
Webber, Wash.	23	201	50	481	20.5
Guyton, Minn.	23	170	120	461	20.0
Raker, Sea.	25	206	89	501	20.0
Hill, Det.	25	172	147	492	19.7
Howard, Wash.	24	180	112	472	19.7
R. Williams, Det.	26	221	67	509	19.6
Fisher, Balt.	24	174	91	467	19.5
Smith, Atl.	22	151	96	427	19.4
Cassell, N.J.	23	144	144	438	19.0

Rebounds	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Williams, N.J.	23	164	157	321	14.0
Robinson, S.A.	18	91	157	248	13.8
Robinson, Chi.	24	110	218	328	13.7
Robinson, S.A.	24	92	184	276	11.5
Duncan, S.A.	24	63	206	269	11.2
Namath, Atl.	25	66	199	265	10.6
R. Williams, Det.	26	85	185	270	10.4
Malone, Utah	24	67	181	248	10.3
Hill, Phil.	21	72	144	216	10.3
Ewing, N.Y.	25	58	198	256	10.2

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	1/2
New York	15	11	.577	2 1/2
New Jersey	13	11	.543	3 1/2
Washington	13	14	.481	5
Boston	11	12	.478	5
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	10 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	19	7	.731	—
Indiana	17	9	.654	1 1/2
Chicago	16	9	.640	1 1/2
Charlotte	15	9	.625	3
Cleveland	15	9	.625	3
Milwaukee	12	15	.444	6 1/2
Detroit	12	15	.444	6 1/2
Toronto	3	23	.115	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	14	8	.636	—
Utah	15	9	.625	—
San Antonio	15	10	.600	1/2
Minnesota	11	13	.458	4
Vancouver	9	17	.344	7
Dallas	5	20	.200	10 1/2
Denver	2	22	.083	13

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	21	5	.808	—
LA Lakers	20	6	.769	1
Phoenix	15	8	.652	4 1/2
Portland	14	9	.609	5 1/2
Sacramento	9	17	.346	12
Golden State	5	18	.217	16 1/2
LA Clippers	5	21	.192	16

NHL Scoring Leaders (Through December 19)

Player, Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Ferby, Cal	34	14	32	46	44
Bure, Van	35	22	44	44	20
Leclaire, Phi	35	26	43	52	18
Sakic, Col	37	17	42	34	26
Lafontaine, NYR	36	16	41	37	20
Lindros, Phi	34	15	39	54	67
Selanne, Ana	35	26	38	54	14
Legg, Pit	32	16	32	38	14
Hodson, Dal	29	15	23	38	16
Francis, Pit	36	10	27	37	4
Yashin, Ott	35	13	19	32	12
Bondra, Was	31	21	15	36	20
Reichel, NYI	34	15	21	36	14

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	10	1	47	106	67
Philadelphia	20	9	7	47	101	78
Washington	16	13	7	39	103	98
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	5	35	97	92
N.L. Rangers	10	15	12	32	96	103
Florida	12	19	5	29	88	108
Tampa Bay	7	21	6	20	62	105

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Dallas	24	9	4	52	118	77
Detroit	20	9	7	47	118	91
St. Louis	21	12	4	46	109	86
Phoenix	14	15	4	34	95	91
Toronto	11	17	5	27	75	91
Chicago	10	17	7	27	72	86

Pacific Division

W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	
Colorado	18	8	11	47	110	93
Los Angeles	14	14	6	34	101	97
San Jose	13	18	4	30	87	98
Roston	12	17	6	30	80	107
Edmonton	11	17	8	30	83	103
Vancouver	11	19	5	27	103	117
Calgary	10	20	7	27	93	111

Chicago	28	17	35	100
New Jersey	22	28	21	71
CHICAGO (100)	Kilgus 6-11 1-14, Rodman 4-7 0-0 1-1, Longley 6-12 1-23 10-23 4-6 2-4, Harper 6-14 9-19, Brown 2-6 0-0 4, Kerr 1-4 5-7, Carter 2-4 0-0 4, Bunker 1-1 1-1 3, Warrington 1-2 2-2, Totals 41-81 17-31 31 7-1			
NEW JERSEY (82)	Gil 7-12 2-16, Van Dyke 6-12 7-21, Williams 6-19 0-0 12, Kuznetsov 15-4-18, Cassell 6-13 2-23 10-35 2-7, DeLoe 2-0 0-8, Cape 2-3 0-0 4, Edwards 0-4 0-0 0, Totals 38-88 12-16 32			

Washington	23	23	18	64
WASHINGTON (64)	Horn 1-2 2-4, Howard 6-13 5-15, Webber 6-12 1-23, Zoror 10-20 1-19, Smith 1-4 9-11, Brown 7-14 9-12, Murray 3-12 0-0 4, Eckerle 2-4 2-7, Whitney 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 35-100 0-15, Camby 1-1 2-2 18, Miller 4-6 0-0 6, Christie 6-12 0-11, Stogdole 1-1 1-4 1-4, Williams 2-1 2-3, DeLoe 2-3 1-5, Slater 0-3 1-2 1, Garner 1-4 0-0 2, McGrady 0-0 0-0, Resper 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 38-79 10-22			
FOULDED OUT—None. Rebounds—Chicago 50 (Rodman 24),				

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Brazil rout Aussies in Confed Cup

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Football without testosterone

By JULIE CART

Sportswriter Sally Jenkins' book, *Men Will Be Boys — The Modern Woman Explains Football and Other Amusing Male Rituals*, is packed with insight.

Jenkins tries to break down the sport and all its militaristic language. Football — which Jenkins asserts is simply guys playing soldiers — can be translated into language women understand.

She offers a hypothetical coach's halftime talk: "We have to reassess our schemes. We've got to seal off the backside and get some penetration. We aren't picking up the blitz, we're making all the wrong reads, and we aren't doing anything in the red zone."

If the head coach were a woman? "I really feel that we need to discuss a few things. I'm not seeing a sense of togetherness on defense, and I'm getting from a few of you that you feel threatened. I want you to know that I sympathize, but you've got to push through and get to the other side of your emotions. And on offense we need to be more giving."

Jenkins provides a glossary of terms: **Facemask:** A device found on helmets, so that when there's hugging, they won't come too close to kissing. **Halfback:** A trial separation between the quarterback and the running back. **Huddle:** Group therapy for guys. (Newsday)

Ewing out for season

Knicks center Patrick Ewing will miss the rest of the season after injuring his wrist against the Milwaukee Bucks and having surgery.

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Vikings top Colts, clinch wild card

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Neither a five-game losing streak nor the Indianapolis Colts could keep the Minnesota Vikings out of the playoffs.

Randall Cunningham offset three interceptions with four touchdown passes, three of them to Cris Carter, as the Vikings ended their slump with a 39-28 win over the Colts yesterday. The victory clinched a berth in the postseason for the fifth time in coach Dennis Green's six seasons. It was the first win since November 9 for Minnesota (9-7), which will play either the New York Giants, Tampa Bay or Detroit in a first-round playoff game next weekend.

With Washington beating Philadelphia, the Vikings needed to win to be assured of getting in. They did it by knocking Jim Harbaugh out of the game twice, first with a head injury that led to a 22-point second quarter and then with what appeared to be a shoulder injury after Harbaugh rallied the Colts within eight points in the fourth quarter.

After an 0-10 start this season, the Colts (3-13) failed in their attempt to finish the season by beating four teams with playoff aspirations in their last six games. They were done in by backup quarterback Kelly Holcomb, who accounted for all five Indianapolis turnovers.

Holcomb threw two interceptions and lost a fumble on consecutive possessions in the second quarter as the Vikings turned a 10-10 game into a 29-10 halftime lead. Harbaugh returned in the second half to rally the Colts, but he left for good after getting injured on a fourth-and-2 TD pass to Marvin Harrison to make it 36-28 with 8:25 remaining.

Bucs 31, Bears 15
Host Tampa Bay tuned up for their first postseason appearance in 15 years in grand style.

Karl Williams zigzagged upfield to score one of his two touchdowns on a 61-yard punt return and Warrick Dunn topped 100 yards rushing for the fifth time Sunday as the Bucs clinched homefield advantage for the first round of the playoffs with a 31-15 victory over the Chicago Bears.

Tampa Bay (10-6) equaled the winningest season in franchise history and will play Minnesota or Detroit in the first postseason game at Houlihan's Stadium next Sunday.

Trent Dilfer, one of an NFL-leading seven Bucs headed to the Pro Bowl, scored on a 7-yard run and threw his 21st TD pass of the year to set a team single-season record.

Redskins 35, Eagles 32
The cornerbacks, the only steady group in a wildly inconsistent season for the Washington Redskins, came through one last time to keep the team's playoff hopes alive.

Darryl Pounds and Darrell Green scored early touchdowns to give Washington a 14-0 lead in its home victory. With Minnesota winning over Indianapolis, the Redskins (8-7-1) needed Detroit to lose or tie against the New York Jets in a game which had not yet been completed by press deadline to earn their first playoff berth since 1992.



TAMPA BAY TWO-STEP — Buccaneers QB Trent Dilfer celebrates his TD run against the Bears yesterday. Tampa Bay beat Chicago 31-15.

Chiefs 25, Saints 13
Host Kansas City looked sharp in just about every way but one — at quarterback. And that could be a big worry for the AFC West champions as they head into the playoffs with home-field advantage, a six-game winning streak and a question at quarterback.

Elvis Grbac, in his first appearance since breaking his left collarbone six games ago, went 5-for-14

for 51 yards as the Chiefs (13-3) beat the turnover-prone Saints. Some of Grbac's troubles were due to the wet, cold weather, and he took a couple of hard hits but bounced right up. New Orleans (6-10), which won four of its last seven, dropped two sure-fire interceptions before Rich Gannon replaced Grbac late in the third period.

Bengals 16, Ravens 14
Boomer Esiason carried his late-season resurgence through to the

finish, leaving visiting Baltimore to finish in the only place they've ever known — last place. Esiason threw an 8-yard touchdown pass on the game's opening possession and found Darnay Scott uncovered for a 77-yarder in the closing minutes, giving the Cincinnati Bengals a 16-14 victory.

The loss left the Ravens (6-9-1) in last place in the AFC Central, where they've finished each of their two seasons since Art Modell

moved his team from Cleveland. The Bengals (7-9) won four of their last five behind Esiason, who took over for Jeff Blake and put up some of the best offensive numbers in franchise history. Cincinnati came into the game having scored at least 30 points in its last four games, a franchise first.

Giants 20, Cowboys 7
Host Dallas's worst year since 1989 came to a merciful conclusion as the New York Giants

recorded the NFC East's first unbeaten season.

Dallas, winners of five consecutive NFC East titles, crashed to a 6-10 record with the 20-7 loss, placing Barry Switzer's job in jeopardy.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said he will decide in late January or February about Switzer's future. Offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese said he expects to be fired.

The Giants completed the worst to first transition under rookie coach Jim Fassel.

New York was 7-0-1 in the NFC East with the only blemish coming on a 7-7 tie with the Washington Redskins.

Dallas, which clinched a top 10 draft pick, gave an inept offensive display once again while the Giants methodically picked the defense apart.

Danny Kanell threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Chris Calloway. Rodney Hampton scored his 49th career touchdown on a 1-yard run, and Brad Daluiso kicked field goals of 28 and 42 yards in the first half against the uninterested Cowboys as the Giants built a 20-0 lead. Hampton surpassed Joe Morris as the Giants' career rushing touchdown leader.

New York, which beat Dallas 20-17 earlier in the season, beat the Cowboys in Texas Stadium for the first time since 1990.

Saturday's Games

Rams 30, Panthers 18
Jerald Moore rushed for 112 yards and Jeff Wilkins kicked three field goals to lead St. Louis to a road victory.

The loss ended a disappointing 7-9 season for the Panthers, who reached the NFC Championship game last year. They were 2-6 at Ericsson Stadium this season after compiling a perfect 9-0 home record last year.

The Rams won three of their final four games to finish 5-11 in Dick Vermeil's first season after 14 years away from coaching.

Packers 31, Bills 21
Brett Favre passed for 156 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 21-0 halftime lead on their way to a home victory.

In the last regular season game for both teams, the Packers extended their home field regular season winning streak to 23 games. Green Bay finished with a 13-3 record, giving them back-to-back 13-win seasons for the first time in team history.

The defending Super Bowl champions closed the regular season with 10 wins in their last 11 games.

Favre, the only quarterback to throw 30 touchdowns in four consecutive seasons, completed 12-of-18 passes in the first half and sat out the second half.

Last night's early results:

- Giants 20, Cowboys 7
 - Buccaneers 31, Bears 15
 - Oilers 16, Steelers 6
 - Redskins 35, Eagles 32
 - Bengals 16, Ravens 14
 - Chiefs 25, Saints 13
 - Vikings 36, Colts 28
- Saturday's results:
Packers 31, Bills 21
Rams 30, Panthers 18

Cole strikes as Utd beat Magpies

NEWCASTLE (AP) — Andy Cole restored Manchester United's 4-point advantage atop the Premier League yesterday with the only goal in a 1-0 victory at Newcastle.

Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel made sure of the victory with breathtaking saves from John Barnes and Stuart Pearce headers while Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla wasted a late chance to level for Newcastle.

Alex Ferguson's Reds, hotly favored to win a fifth league title in six seasons, made it 13 wins in 19 games and now have 43 points. Second place Blackburn, who moved within a point Saturday by beating West Ham 3-0, have 39 and Chelsea, a 4-1 winner at Sheffield Wednesday, have 38.

Cole, who scored 34 goals in one season for Newcastle before his £6 million transfer to the Old Trafford club, struck in the 67th minute. The breakaway goal came seconds after a free kick from Newcastle's Stuart Pearce had been blocked on the Reds' line.

The ball was moved quickly upfield and the visitor suddenly had six attackers around the Newcastle area. David Beckham crossed from the right and Cole beat teammate Ryan Giggs to the ball to head confidently home for his 15th goal of the season.

Newcastle had two chances to equalize near the end, Barnes heading wide after getting a free header from a corner and then Asprilla breaking clear of the Reds' defense but lifting his lob over the top with Danish goalkeeper Schmeichel off his line and beaten.

The first half was scoreless only because of three stunning saves — two from Newcastle's Shaka Hislop and one from Schmeichel.

Beckham's low, ninth-minute

shot appeared headed for the corner of the net until Hislop managed to dive and finger-tip the ball round the post.

Barnes thought he had scored with a power header in the 25th minute but Schmeichel launched himself to his left to palm the ball away one-handed. Three minutes before half time, Cole dribbled neatly through the Newcastle defense but Hislop raced off his line to make a stand-out blocking save.

Asprilla, Newcastle's lone attacker, headed too high in the 59th minute before the Reds went ahead with the breakaway strike.

A minute after Cole's goal, Hislop made another one-handed stop to keep out a shot from Giggs and then Schmeichel produced a carbon-copy of his save from Barnes by keeping out another powerful header from Pearce, again at the left-hand post with his left hand.

Arsenal play at Wimbledon

Leading Premier League scorers after yesterday's matches:

- 11 — John Barnes (West Ham United)
- 10 — Kevin Smeaton (Blackburn Rovers), Eric Sproston (Derby County), Andy Cole (Manchester United)
- 10 — Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal), Ian Wright (Arsenal)
- 9 — Kevin Gallagher (Blackburn Rovers)
- 8 — Rod Wallace (Leeds United)
- 7 — Kevin Bevan (Southampton), Teddy Sheringham (Manchester United), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Paolo Di Canio (Sheffield Wednesday), Noel Bignle (Bolton), Dino Udolin (Coventry City), Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea), Benito Carbone (Sheffield Wednesday)

today. In Division One, it was Queen Park Rangers 1, Bradford 0.

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	19	13	4	2	45	13	43
Blackburn	19	11	6	2	36	19	39
Chelsea	19	12	2	5	45	19	38
Leeds	19	10	4	5	28	19	34
Liverpool	18	9	4	5	31	17	31
Arsenal	18	8	6	4	32	21	30
Derby	19	8	5	6	33	27	29
Leicester	19	7	6	6	23	18	27
Newcastle	18	7	5	6	28	22	26
West Ham	19	8	1	10	25	31	25
Wimbledon	18	6	5	7	19	21	23
Sheff Wed	19	6	4	9	20	25	22
Crystal Palace	19	5	6	8	17	25	21
Sheff Wed	19	6	3	10	31	43	21
Southampton	19	6	2	11	23	29	20
Coventry	19	4	8	7	17	25	20
Bolton	19	4	8	7	16	29	20
Tottenham	19	5	4	10	17	32	19
Everton	19	4	5	10	17	27	17
Barnsley	19	4	2	13	17	50	14

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Middlesbrough	23	13	6	4	39	19	45
West Forest	23	13	6	4	37	21	42
Sheff United	23	11	9	3	34	22	42
Charlton	23	12	5	6	43	29	41
W Brom Albion	23	12	4	7	25	21	40
Wolves	23	11	6	6	35	31	39
Sunderland	22	11	5	7	32	31	38
Widnes	23	10	6	7	29	26	36
Stokeport	23	10	5	8	39	32	35
Bradford	23	8	9	6	22	22	33
Hillingdon	23	8	7	8	24	19	32
QPR Rangers	23	8	6	9	28	36	30
Norwich	23	8	6	9	23	32	30
Ipswich	23	6	9	7	27	25	27
Sheff	23	7	4	10	24	30	27
Oxford United	23	7	5	11	29	33	26
Port Vale	23	7	5	11	26	30	26
Reading	23	6	7	10	21	35	25
Manchester City	23	6	6	11	26	27	24
Huddersfield	23	6	5	12	24	37	23
Tranmere	22	6	4	12	28	34	22
Bury	23	4	10	9	22	32	22
Crewe	23	6	3	14	28	39	21
Portsmouth	22	5	5	12	26	36	20



Full Flight Japanese Masahiko Harada in action during the World Cup ski-jumping competition in Engelberg, Switzerland yesterday. Harada jumped 236.8 meters to take first place.